

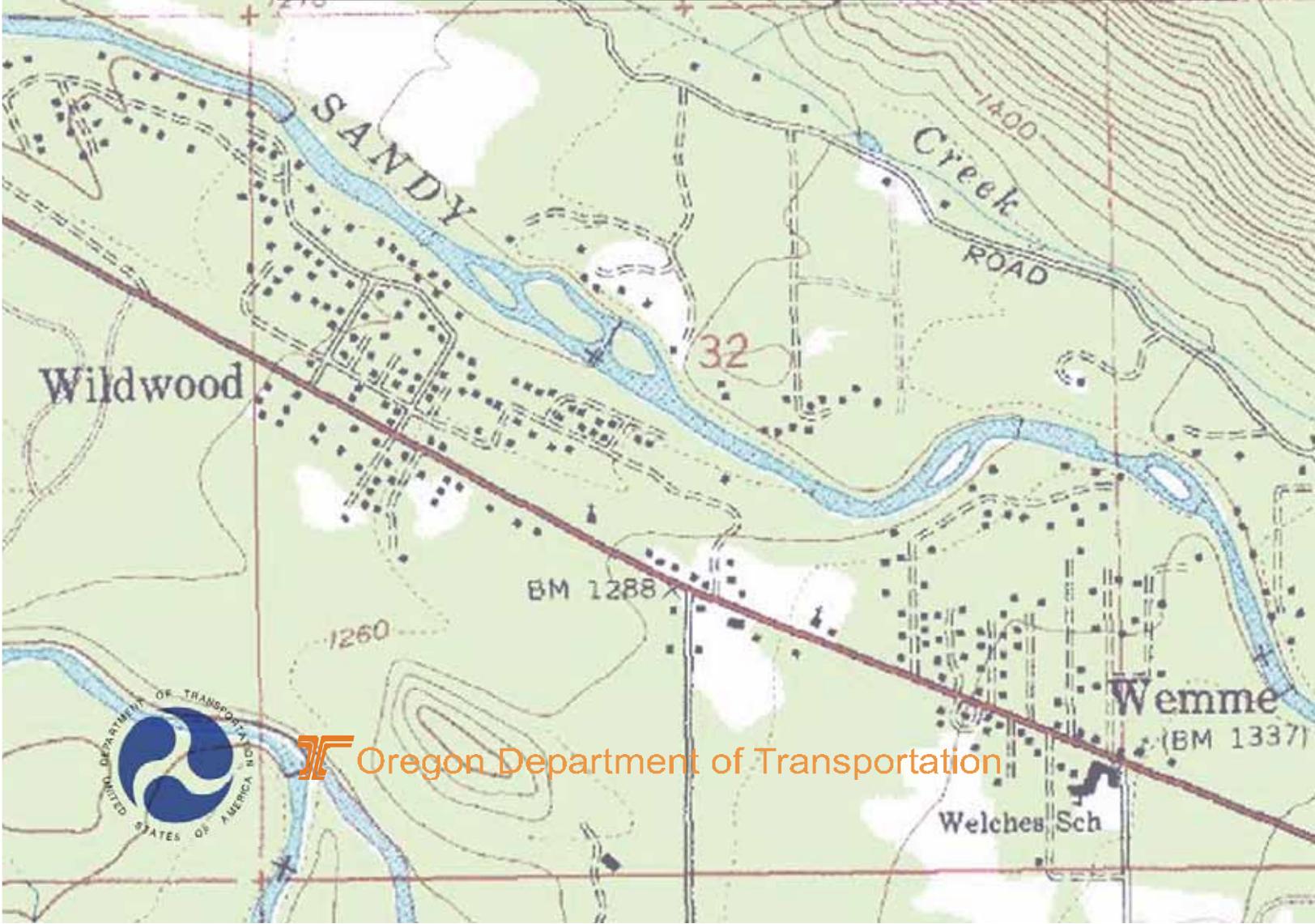
# US 26: Wildwood - Wemme Environmental Assessment

Mt. Hood Highway, Clackamas County

August 2006



Photo: A.G. Jackson Feb. 8, 1926



 Oregon Department of Transportation

## Acronyms

ADT --- Average Daily Traffic  
BLM --- Bureau of Land Management  
BMP --- Best Management Practices  
BOD --- Biochemical Oxygen Demand  
BT --- Bureau (BLM) tracking  
dbh --- diameter at breast height  
EA --- Environmental Assessment  
CEQ---Council on Environmental Quality  
CO --- carbon monoxide  
Corps --- US Army Corps of Engineers  
DEIS --- Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
DEQ --- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
DSL --- Department of State Lands  
EIS --- Environmental Impact Statement  
ESA --- Endangered Species Act  
ESCP --- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan  
FEIS --- Final Environmental Impact Statement  
FHWA --- Federal Highway Administration  
HAZMAT --- Hazardous materials  
MBTA --- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918  
NAAQS --- National Ambient Air Quality Standards  
NEPA --- National Environmental Policy Act  
NPDES --- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
NRHP --- National Register of Historic Places  
ODOT --- Oregon Department of Transportation  
ONHIC --- Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center  
PCP --- Pollution Control Plan  
PE --- Preliminary Engineering  
PT --- Proposed Threatened  
REA --- Revised Environmental Assessment  
SAQR --- Statewide Air Quality Report  
SC --- State Critical  
SoC --- Species of Concern  
SV --- State Vulnerable  
Taxa --- classifications of animal and plant species, plural of taxon  
USACE --- US Army Corps of Engineers  
USFWS --- US Fish and Wildlife Service  
v/c --- volume to capacity ratio  
VRM --- Visual Resource Management

### **Alternative Format Availability:**

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# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Transportation

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Technical Services Branch

Distribution date \_\_\_\_\_

File Code:

**TO INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE**

**US 26: Wildwood to Wemme Project**

**US 26, Mt. Hood Highway**

**Clackamas County**

**Key No. 12840**

This Environmental Assessment is being distributed for your review and comment according to state and federal regulations.

If you wish to comment on the project or its impacts, please submit them by the date stamped below. If comments are not received by this date, it will be assumed that you have no comments.

There are several methods for commenting on the proposed project and the Environmental Assessment. You may send comments to:

Susan Whitney, Environmental Project Manger

ODOT, Region 1

123 NW Flanders Street

Portland, OR 97209

Or by e-mail to:

**Susan.a.whitney@odot.state.or.us**

You may also comment by attending the public hearing to be held in September 2006 at Mt. Hood Village. A court reporter will be available to record your comments or you may submit written comments.

We welcome your comments and participation in this project. If you need additional information concerning this project, please contact Susan Whitney at (503) 731-8445 or Floyd Harrington at (503) 731-8497.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Watanabe

Region 1 Eastern Area Manager

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Comments due by \_\_\_\_\_





U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

US 26: Wildwood to Wemme Project  
US 26, Mt. Hood Highway  
Clackamas County, Oregon

Key No. 12840

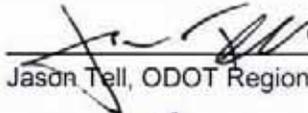
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Submitted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)B & 49 U.S.C., Sec 303

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration  
and  
Oregon Department of Transportation, Technical Services

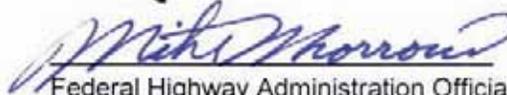
8/22/06

Date

  
Jason Tell, ODOT Region 1 Manager

8/25/06

Date

  
Federal Highway Administration Official

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The proposed project would add a center turn lane to US 26 between milepost 38.75 and milepost 40.01 to improve safety on this section of the highway. This environmental assessment contains descriptions, analyses, and mitigation measures for a No Build Alternative and the proposed Build Alternative, Widen to the North. It also includes descriptions of three alternatives proposed in the 1985 *Wildwood to Rhododendron Mt. Hood Highway Draft Environmental Impact Statement* and five additional alternatives; none of these were carried forward for further analysis. The proposed Widen to the North Alternative would add a 14-foot median turn lane that would allow for continuous left-turns, accommodate four 12-foot travel lanes, include 8-foot shoulder/bikeways on each side of the highway, and add two additional feet on the north side of the highway in sections where guardrail is needed. Impacts to the natural and visual environment would include the removal of prominent large trees at the north edge of the existing pavement. Mitigation for additional pavement and stormwater runoff would improve the existing drainage, protect and improve water quality. Mitigation and conservation measures would offset potential impacts to listed northern spotted owls. The community would benefit from improved safety. No residences or businesses would be displaced. Some accesses would be consolidated. There would be no meaningful differences in air quality or noise between the No Build and the Widen to the North alternatives. Informal pathways would continue to be used by pedestrians and the project would not preclude the construction of pedestrian and bike facilities in the future.



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## Signature Page with Abstract

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