



Dec. 30, 2010

10-82 R1

For More Information: Kimberly Dinwiddie, 503-731-8281, Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us
Brad Wurfel, 503-731-8265, Bradley.J.Wurfel@odot.state.or.us
www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/starlings

Bird hazing begins on I-5 Bridges next week

ODOT workers next week will resume the annual effort to control huge flocks of starlings on the I-5 Interstate Bridge.

Starting **Monday, Jan. 3**, and continuing through **Thursday, March 17**, bridge crews will use propane-powered orchard cannons to disturb starlings, which arrive by the thousands in the winter to roost each evening on the bridge. The migrating flocks leave droppings that coat the bridge, catwalks, roadway, vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. The mess is unhealthy, unsafe and unsightly.

The cannons, traditionally used to scare birds from fruit orchards, are mounted systematically along the span. They are a non-lethal tool that rousts the flocks with loud booms. In addition to keeping them off the span, the technique keeps them flying more, which means the birds need to leave the area to feed more frequently. The number of starlings returning to the bridge each winter has decreased steadily for the past several years.

This year, the cannons will operate a total of **43 days** for about two hours each day in the late afternoon and early evening. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the bridges will hear the blasts, which occur as often as once every 15 seconds. People who live or visit business near the bridge also will hear the blasts.

ODOT crews will use the cannons varying days and times to keep the starlings from developing a pattern of behavior in their relationship with the Interstate Bridge. The first round of cannon use is **Monday, Jan. 3, through Tuesday, Jan. 18**. The effort will continue through the months of February and March. Schedule details are on ODOT's Starling Hazing [website](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/starlings), www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/starlings

###ODOT###