OVERVIEW: The Whiskey Creek Culvert under OR 244 near mile post 45.14 (approx. 16 miles west of La Grande) will be replaced with a 22-foot-wide, pre-cast concrete box culvert.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The decades-old, 60-inch diameter, round metal culvert is undersized and does not meet current requirements for water flow during high water events. The size of the culvert also creates a barrier for fish passage. High water events in recent years have resulted in flooding of the adjacent land and roadway where Whiskey Creek connects under the highway to the Grande Ronde River. This has caused very unsafe situations for motorists (ice and water on pavement) and damages the road structure due to erosion. The new concrete box culvert will accommodate high water events and meet fish passage criteria. Work will include realigning the creek where it connects to the new culvert.

COST AND TIME LINE/CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE: $2.3 M is currently allocated for this work. Construction is scheduled for summer and fall 2020, with all work completed by the end of the year.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS: OR244 will remain open during construction with lane closures, flaggers and delays of up to twenty minutes.

More Information: Contact Region 5 Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at (541) 963-1330 or email Thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us

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