

County Parks Department asks for support in dredging project

Headlight Herald staff

Popular boat launch Memaloose Point in Tillamook has been seeing difficulty from those seeking to boat and fish due to silt filling up the ramp area, and Tillamook County Parks Department Director Delbert Schleichert said permits are what keep the launch from being dredged.

But now, Tillamook County Parks Department is in the process of applying for a grant from The Oregon State Marine Board to help with the cost of dredging, and is asking for the public's help.

Schleichert says Memaloose Point hasn't been dredged since around 2005 or 2006.

"During low tides, the upstream or eastern ramp is totally unusable, and the downstream or western ramp, although less filled-in, is still [a] problem," Schleichert told the Headlight Herald back in September. "The last dredging was in the [2005 to 2006] time period, and involved approximately half as much silt and debris as exists at this time."

The low tides haven't been helping the situation either.

"The existing conditions are impacted heavily by

the tides. For the past few weeks, this area has been witnessing the annual or normal, seasonal, very low tide levels, coupled with the heavy silt conditions and the start of the areas fish run," Schleichert said. "When all these conditions and circumstances come together, once one caller told me, 'You have the makings of a perfect storm.'"

To try and fix the problem, the Tillamook County Parks Department has been working with the Oregon State Marine Board for the past several months "regarding the unacceptable silting conditions found at Memaloose Point Boat Launch."

"Their field staff have surveyed the conditions at the site and worked with the Parks Department staff to draft technical and detailed dredging permit applications for the Department of State Lands and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which have been turned in and received by each agency," Schleichert said. "There has been contact initiated from each agency with the Parks Department, concerning certain components of the applications, so there is evidence that the permitting process is moving forward."



File Photo

The Tillamook County Parks Department is asking the public to write letters to the Oregon Marine Board in support of a dredging project at Memaloose Point in Tillamook.

The Tillamook County Parks Department is asking that anyone who is in support of the project, should write a letter to the Oregon State Marine Board advocating for the decision to

dredge at Memaloose Point Boat Launch.

The emails can be sent directly to Janine Belleque at the Oregon State Marine Board at janine.belleque@state.or.us.

