

## **COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY REPORT:** Tim Josi, Mark Labhart, & Chuck Hurliman - November 14, 2006

### **RECORD RAIN EVENT FOR COUNTY**

On Monday, November 6th the Lee's Camp weather station reported 13.2" of rain in a 24 hour period. That's over one foot of rain. This is the highest rainfall in Oregon in a 24 hour period since rainfall records have been kept. This rain contributed to the 26" (that's over two feet) of rain we received during the event. The Wilson River's flow was recorded at over 38,000 cubic feet at the height of the event which was several thousand cubic feet over the record flood of 1996. The National Weather Service admits they did not predict this amount of rain would hit us. As a result, warnings did not go out as fast as we all would have liked. Many businesses in the county were caught off guard and sustained major damage. Many said their damage was worse than the 1996 flood. Some farmers were hit just as hard with some losing a significant portion of their herd to drowning.

A damage tour of Central County was conducted with County Commissioners, Congresswomen Darlene Hooley, Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative Debbie Boone, Tillamook City Manager Mark Gervasi, Emergency Manager Tom Manning, Public Works Director Liane Welch and others on Thursday, Nov. 9th. Damage assessments are being done by the cities, county and state. The Governor declared a state of emergency in Tillamook County on Tuesday, November 7 at the Commissioners' request.

We thank all the volunteers who helped their neighbors during this record rainfall event. We also thank the Red Cross, the Coast Guard, our local/state law enforcement agencies and the state for their assistance when the calls went out for help. Their response was swift and appreciated once the magnitude of the event was determined.

If you have questions regarding damage assessments, how Red Cross can help, etc. start with one call to our office of Emergency Management located at the Sheriff's Office. The phone number is 503-842-3412. Emergency Management staff will help you get answers to your questions if they can't answer the question personally.