

# FLOOD MEETINGS

The Tillamook Bay Habitat & Estuary Improvement District [TBHEID] is a group of local people working together for restoration of the lower Tillamook Bay drainages. District projects include restoration of both fish habitats and drainage channels that have been destroyed by flooding and decades of neglect.

In the 10 years that the current group has been working together, many projects have been completed. Unfortunately, most work has been based on previously established flood levels from FEMA. Since **this flood exceeded the predicted 500-year level by more than a foot**, we are left not knowing how to proceed.

The situation has obviously changed. As channels fill with debris the process accelerates. The snowball-effect increases to where main river channels no longer carry any water at normal levels. This leads to filling of side channels and sloughs, which in turn destroys prime juvenile Coho habitat. Real property is destroyed in the process.

The District has worked for 6 years to secure a permit to conduct a relatively small "demonstration" restoration on the lower Kilchis. After finally receiving county and state permits, the Corps of Engineers has denied the application. According to the Corps representative, Kathryn Harris, a six-year delay and then a rejection is how the system is supposed to work.

Our only hope for improvement is to help ourselves. We cannot do so without more involvement from property owners. Otherwise we are approaching the "SOLUTION" voiced by many bureaucrats—**VACATE OUR PROPERTIES.**

**To get information about floods, habitat projects, and meetings,  
call TBHEID at 815-8164.**