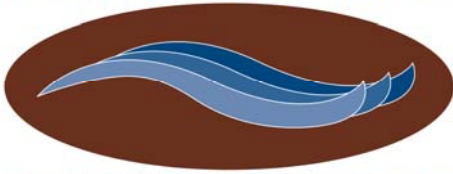


WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
4-10-09

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Balch Creek Watershed Summit

Who: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Audubon

What: Balch Creek Watershed Summit

Where: Audubon Society, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland

When: Saturday, May 9, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

*** Register at registration@westmultconserv.org**

Join the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and Audubon Society of Portland for a **FREE** summit on the current condition and threats to the future of the Balch Creek Watershed.

Many issues affect this vital bird and wildlife sanctuary, including invasive weeds, soil erosion and septic maintenance. The summit will be an opportunity to learn about the watershed, its challenges and the measures we can take to lessen human impact. You'll have the opportunity to talk with local experts and neighbors about these issues and go on a nature walk through the watershed courtesy of Audubon Society naturalists.

Speakers at the event include:

- John Gillilan, engineer, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Mary Logalbo, Conservation Planner/Technician, WMSWCD
- Virginia Bowers, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
- Erin Mick, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Stormwater & Sanitation Expert
- Tom Costello, Audubon Society Sanctuary Director

The Balch Creek Watershed, located in Macleay Park at the end of NW Upshur, was formed 13 million years ago by the folding of ancient basalt flows that covered the area that is now metropolitan Portland. The watershed contains over 120 separate plant species including Hemlock, Pacific Yew, Cedar, and Madrone, as well as abundant wildlife. A 2001 City of Portland study found over 70 resident and migrant species from bobcats and bats to the rare Tennessee warbler. It's also home to native cutthroat trout.

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District mission is "to conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment."

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