

Leavenworth, WA
(Chelan Co.)
Echo
(Cir. W. 2,200)

APR 27 2011

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City OKs boat launch trail, pond improvement plan

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2219
A quarter-acre pond just upstream from the city-owned boat launch on East Leavenworth Road will get a little help from Trout Unlimited, the Chelan County Natural Resources Department and the city of Leavenworth this year.

The plan is to remove a 30-foot berm,

which will allow more water from Wenatchee River to reach the pond, helping with fish habitat especially during the low-water periods. As it is, the pond gets flow from the river during high water, but then is stagnant during later parts of the summer.

"We don't want to strand fish," Mike

SEE **POND** ON PAGE 4

POND: City Council approved the agreement

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Kaputa of the Chelan County Natural Resources Department told the Leavenworth City Council at an April 12 work study session. "We're only intending to bring in a little bit of water. The pond is stagnant for much of the summer now. It will be stagnant less often with the new plan."

The pond will serve as an off-channel habitat for salmon. The additional water will also improve about an acre of forested and shrub dominated floodplain.

In addition to removing the berm, the project also includes the construction of a trail, built along the access road alignment, that will allow the public to see some of the recovery plan. The trail will be handicap-accessible. Once the trail is completed, it will be offered to the city for maintenance and upkeep.

"We don't have the funding to commit to long-term maintenance for the trail," Kaputa said. "We would be happy to give that to the city."

The \$149,000 project is being funded by several sources,

including the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Tributary Funds.

The Leavenworth City Council approved an agreement with the county on the project on April 12. The agreement does not limit future use of the city property.

City Administrator Joel Walinski said past discussions about the property included the idea of building a pedestrian bridge in the area. He said neighbors' concern about changing the river flows also will be addressed.

The question of whether the project would provide a wet-

land mitigation opportunity for other city projects also is being researched, though Kaputa said it would have to be parts of the project that are not directly connected to funding. It might be possible to apply mitigation to the city property itself.

Construction on the off-channel pond reconnection project is expected to start in August or September this year, during the low river flow. It should take about three-and-a-half weeks.

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