

Washington, D.C. -- The House of Representatives late last month approved legislation providing \$220,000 for the Corps of Engineers to begin environmental restoration along Johnson Creek in the Springwater Industrial Area. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) requested congressional support for the project earlier this year. "I'm pleased that Congress approved these funds which will restore water quality and fish habitat in Johnson Creek," said Blumenauer. "Despite decades of urban development, Johnson Creek is one of the last known streams in the Portland Metropolitan area to support endangered fish."

The Johnson Creek project will implement a series of restoration projects designed to address impaired water quality and natural resource functions of Johnson Creek within the Springwater Industrial Area. The project is within an area slated for industrial development in the near term and will help leverage private development by addressing important stream corridor needs. The project will restore wetlands for water storage, enhance water quality, restore riparian areas, and improve off-channel habitat for salmon.

The project is supported by the City of Gresham, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

"Restoring the health of Johnson Creek is of primary importance to the citizens of Gresham and the Springwater Community will help us do just that," said Gresham Mayor Chuck Becker. "We are very grateful to the Congress for this support and look forward to working with the Corps and other citizen groups to develop and implement a plan that will bring back the abundance of salmon population to our region."

The funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, legislation funding the Army Corps of Engineers for the coming year. The legislation, passed by the House on May 24th, must now be approved by the United States Senate.