

## **Makinster Road needs work**

Most of Makinster Road in Tillamook is in poor condition and requires reconstruction. As a result of decades of flooding and silt buildup, the road is lower than the adjacent land. The road has also settled and water does not drain into the tide gates.

Reconstruction of the road would include raising the road, repairing the drainage, stabilizing the subgrade, placing base rock and topping with it with asphalt. However, this would cost approximately \$1 million, which the Public Works Department does not have. In addition, we do not know if the county could get a permit to raise the road in the flood plain.

As a result, the Public Works Department plans to turn Makinster Road back into a gravel road within the next six months. Plans are to grind the old asphalt off and reuse it as the gravel base and to regrade the road to drain better than it currently does. Because this area will flood again and will fill the road with silt, it will be a continual challenge to keep the road serviceable.

Tillamook County's road system has been underfunded for many years and our citizens are feeling the neglect. The condition of the road system is impacting the ability to move goods and services safely.

We are working to develop a sustainable solution to keep our roads in a serviceable condition. Our Public Works Director, Liane Welch, is developing information to share with the community on the condition of the entire county road system and what it will take to fix it. If you are part of a community organization and would like to hear from her, give her a call at (503) 842-3419 and invite her as a guest to your next meeting.