

# County awaits payback for storm damage repair

TILLAMOOK — Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have completed most of their damage assessment work in the county related to the federal disaster declaration arising from the winter storms hitting Oregon last December through January.

Tillamook County was one of 17 counties affected by the storms.

Soon after the formal federal declaration, Tillamook County Road Department staff started assembling damage assessment details for various county roads in hope of collecting possible disaster relief funding. County Road and Parks departments both have spent significant time working with FEMA representatives documenting damages and developing cost estimates during various meetings and on-site visits.

The initial reports being submitted to FEMA indicate the following storm response and repair work eligible for disaster funding: county parks (multiple sites), \$19,756; county roads (debris cleanup), \$9,369; county roads (repairs), \$143,345. This totals \$172,470.

The above submissions will receive further review from FEMA Joint Field Office headquarters in Salem and are subject

to change.

FEMA disaster funding generally covers lower traffic volume roads. Roads with specific damage covered by FEMA include Burton Fraser Rd., Bilyeu Avenue sinkhole, various roads near the Wilson River in the Tillamook area and the Bay Ocean Dike Road. Eligible roads are typically funded at 75 percent of the submitted figures (above).

For higher traffic volume roads, eligible roads are covered by disaster funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through its Emergency Relief program. Currently are three identified sites on higher traffic roads being reviewed for FHWA eligible disaster funding.

Two sites are on Foss Road and the other is guardrail damage along Tillamook River Road south of Tillamook. These sites are eligible for up to 90 percent reimbursement to the county.

With the exception of the Tillamook River Road guardrail repairs, most eligible storm response and damage repair work has already been completed by the county (either by contract or with its own crews). County Road Department staff continues to work with FHWA to get the Tillamook River Road repairs designed and constructed.