

**February 16, 2006**

**Press Release** | Contact: Kristie Greco (202) 225-6416

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WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today introduced legislation to transfer approximately 12 acres of West Eugene Wetlands property to the City of Eugene. The property is currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The City of Eugene plans to build an environmental education center and wildlife viewing area on the property.

“Transferring this property will allow the city to build upon the successful restoration of the West Eugene Wetlands. The planned education center and wildlife viewing area will be a real asset to the wetlands project and the community as a whole,” DeFazio said.

“This legislation will bring momentum to the establishment of a Wetlands Education Center that will reconnect the Wetlands to our community consciousness via education, recreation, and interpretation through our past, present and future. This project will expand our horizons in science and self-knowledge, not only for our region's youth, but for citizens of all ages,” said Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy.

The legislation, known as the “Eugene Land Conveyance Act,” is enthusiastically supported by the City of Eugene and the Bureau of Land Management. Companion legislation was previously introduced in the Senate by Sens. Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith. DeFazio's bill was referred to the House Committee on Resources where he is a senior member.