

News and Information from Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

For Immediate Release: December 29, 2010

Port finalizes acquisition of UP-owned section of Coos Bay rail line

Oregon International Port of Coos Bay staff finalized a transaction with the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad on Thursday, December 23, 2010, that transferred ownership of 23 miles of the Coos Bay rail line to the Port. This UP-owned section of track runs from Cordes on Coos Bay's North Spit to Coquille, and includes rail yard facilities in North Bend and Coos Bay.

The property transaction was recorded with Coos County following several months of discussions with senior management at UP involving a third-party lease and several assessments of the condition of the rail infrastructure.

A tunnel contractor completed \$3.7 million in tunnel rehabilitation and maintenance on the Coos Bay line in early October, and Port staff is working with its engineering consultants to plan repair work on track structure – rail, ties and ballast, and maintenance of bridges, trestles and culverts. The future work will include rehabilitation of at-grade public crossings and upgrade of signal devices. The work is expected to begin in spring 2011, and restoration of freight rail service is planned for mid-year.

Port staff is continuing its evaluation of shortline railroad operators that have expressed interest in providing freight service on the line. When service is restored, the Coos Bay line will be operated as the Coos Bay Rail Link (CBR).

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