



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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~ Media Advisory ~

TALES OF THE OLD MILL

The Story of Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6pm, the Springfield Public Library is hosting a talk by park ranger Doug Crispin about the Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site near Shedd, Oregon. Ranger Crispin served as the park's "start-up" ranger and helped turn the old mill into an Oregon State Park.

Thompson's Mills is an old Willamette Valley business that opened as one of Oregon's newest state parks in 2007. It is older than 17 of America's 19 Western states including Oregon. In the annals of the American West, it will never be as famous as Little Big Horn, Montana, Promontory Summit, Utah, or Sutter's Saw Mill in California. Yet, this new state park is a one-of-a-kind historic treasure and may be the oldest continuous water-powered mill in the American West! It is located just 35 minutes from Eugene in Shedd, Oregon.

Join Ranger Crispin for the full story of Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site. What is a "territorial" water right? How was a water-powered mill engineered in the flattest part of Oregon? How did thrifty farm wives recycle the cloth flour sacks, making them into useful items? How was the property acquired without the use of tax dollars? Why is the park described as both an historical and natural resource treasure? And what does it take to convert an old mill into a first-class Oregon State Park? Ranger Crispin will share answers to these questions and more.

What: A presentation about the Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site by park ranger Doug Crispin

When: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6 pm

Where: Springfield Library Meeting Room, 225 5th St. Springfield, OR

Additional Information: Contact Carrie Schindele-Cupples at (541) 726-2237