

# Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

April 2014

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### NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

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## NEW MEMBERS 2014

George Rummel

John T. Holder

EL-Don & Wanda Graves

### Members paid 2014

Lee Hockema

Roy & Eileen Beaty

Philip Carlson

James & Betty Davison

Dave & Sandy Gonzales

M. Shawn Ryan

Special **THANKS** to these members for their **DONATIONS** to Coos River STEP.

## DICK BRAMBLETT

We're sorry to hear that Dick died. He was one of the members when we first started.

## HATCHERY NEWS

.All the salmon are being fed here at the hatchery now. The salmon that we have in Nora's pond are the first to hatch and are growing really good. There is about 480,000 in this group, with about 140,000 in the feeding tanks inside the building.

We were some short of our production for this year so, the Department had another 50,000 Chinook un-fed fry sent to us from the Millicoma Hatchery to make for the short-fall. These fish are part of the 140,000 that we have in the inside tanks. We are trying to keep them separate from the older group so the fin marking equipment will work better, as a group they are smaller fish. We are also trying to get this smaller group to catch up in size with the older group, as much as possible. This recent rain is delaying the plans for us to build a separate pond for them. We may need to change plans on what we will try to do to keep them separate.

## COHO PROJECT & MORE

Paul did get all the COHO eyed eggs put in the gravel of the designated streams at the head of Catching Slough. We always keep a few to hatch here at the Hatchery, so we can have them checked to see what the otolith mark looks like. It's also nice to check a few to be sure that we did get a good mark.

We still need to clean out the mud that came down Noble Creek, and settled in our holding ponds here at the hatchery. There also needs to be a divider screen built to keep the two sizes of juvenile salmon separated in the big holding pond.

It could be a better choice to, just hold and feed this smaller group in Nora's pond. I'm afraid we could have a real mess if we get this much rain with them in the creek pond.



On March 12th we had a work party at Noble Creek Hatchery. Harold is clearing out bio-rings from hatchbox 1. Once all of the bio-rings are removed we will then net out the fry and move them to Nora's Pond.



The earliest fish are through absorbing their yoke sack and need food. Menasha Timber has stored the fish food for the last month. It's now time to move the food to the hatchery. Gary, Ray and Harold also had bags of food in their trucks



The raceway has about a foot of mud in the bottom. This is from the lower flows of the last few weeks. We will need to move all of the fish from Nora's Pond into the raceway in a few weeks so Gary is trying to clear out the mud. We gave up and are hoping the rain will be enough to flush out the mud. We installed a piece of plywood to push water to one side.



Harold called a work party for March 25th to clean Nora's Pond and the tanks inside of the hatchery. The rains from the last few days made it so we couldn't see the bottom. We were able to clean all of the tanks and the pond and still have time for a lunch of hotdogs, potato chips and beans.

This week I have been going through the data from this last fall's spawning season. I just got the results from coded wire tagged snouts that we collect at the hatchery and send up to our Clackamas office to be read. This past fall we collected 140 Chinook snouts that had a coded wire tag. Forty six of those snouts were from jacks, 64 were from 3 year old fish, 23 were from 4 year old fish, 6 were from 5 year old fish, and we even had one snout from a 6 year old fish.

I also looked up the results of the coded wire tag fish from our angler creel survey this past fall. Our surveyors collected 24 coded wire tag fish snouts from the Coos Bay fishery and we saw a good mixture of fish caught from our three facilities that release coded wire tag fish (Morgan, Noble, and West Fork Millicoma).

All the Chinook fry have been ponded into two different groups. An early group which is in Nora's Pond and a latter group which are in the Canadian troughs inside. The group of fish in Nora's Pond are growing extremely well and it won't be long and it will be time to move these fish into the big raceway. The group of fish in the Canadian troughs are a couple weeks behind and are a little smaller than the fish in Nora's Pond. This is not a big deal other than we will have to keep the two groups of fish separate in the big raceway to make things easier for the auto fish marking trailer. The automatic fish marking trailer is scheduled to be up and running by the end of the day on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The trailer will be at Noble Creek until Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The marking trailer will be running in two shifts on Tuesday - Thursday. The first shift will be from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM and the second shift from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. On Monday they will only run an afternoon shift and on Fridays they will only run a morning shift. If you get a chance stop by and check out the marking trailer.

On April 25 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting will be held in North Bend. One of the topics for discussion at this Commission meeting will be the Coastal Multi-species Conservation Plan. The Commissioners won't be making any final decisions on the Conservation Plan at this meeting but they will be taking comments from the public.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. APRIL 8th  
NOBLE CREEK HATCHERY**



**Coos River S.T.E.P. Association**  
Coos River S.T.E.P. needs your help to insure that there will be rivers to fish and salmon and steelhead to fish for into the future. Sign up today as a **SUPPORTER** & volunteer! Oregon's fish need your help!

MEMBERSHIP:  \$15.00 Family

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