

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

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

April 2013

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## MARCH DONATIONS

Herb & Donna Bosselman

Ben Mahoney & Vera Mase

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## THANKS TO EVERYONE

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE  
DUE FOR 2013  
WE NEED YOUR  
SUPPORT**

## HATCHERY NEWS

On April 2nd we moved the Chinook babies that we had in Nora's pond, over into the creek holding and feeding pond. They were about 300 per pound at that time, and doing very good, all 500,000 of them. We have close to 100,000 more to move to the same creek pond soon. These are the youngest group of Chinook that we have this year.

As soon as they reach 300 per pound or better, we can move them also. We will feed these Chinook salmon until they reach 75 per pound, and then release them. They will be free to start their migration down to the ocean and beyond. They will spend 3 years, and some 4 years feeding in the ocean before returning back to the hatchery for spawning. A few will return at 5 years also to spawn. Only the Jacks will return a 2 years old to spawn.

The estimated time for this group of salmon to reach 75 per pound is June 1st 2013.

We will be feeding these salmon until then, come out to see the hatchery and see how they look before they are gone to sea, on their life's journey.

## GLYNN P. McCREADY, SR. MEMORIAL

Notice for urn-side service for Glynn P. McCready, Sr.

11:00 AM April 13 th

At Oceanview Memorial Cemetery

Followed by potluck and celebration of life at

Bastendorff County Park, Orange Gazebo



Harold agreed to put in the dam boards for the trap. We put in the bottom boards first then proceeded up-stream 10' to put in the next boards. The water came up and filled Harold's boots before we could get the boards in. We'll reverse the process next year if we remember — maybe?



Harold's already been in Nora's Pond and swept the bottom then ran the pump to remove debris from the bottom. We removed the screen and will push the out-flow pipe as far as it will go so all of the fry will be sucked out into the raceway.



The outflow pipe has been removed so the fry have no choice but to go to the raceway.



We have three automatic feeders that hang on hangers. All we have to do is keep them full of the right size feed. They feed for 60 seconds on the hour from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. The food is broadcast for about an eight foot diameter circle so works much better than the old belt feeders we used to use. We only use two of those at the head of the raceway now.

I spoke with Clyde earlier this week and he and Harold were preparing to move all the Chinook juveniles into the main raceway at the Hatchery. With the lack of rain and increased water flows the holding tanks and Nora's Pond are starting to get a little crowded. I stopped out over a week ago to weigh the fish and at that time they were weighing about 390 fish per pound. We will release the fish when they reach 75 fish per pound. All the fish are growing well and are looking in good condition. The coho in the small deep matrix incubator are almost ready to be sent off to the lab. These are the coho that we kept at the hatchery as a reference sample to see how well we did at marking otoliths. We need to do a little more checking to find out if Oregon State University has a lab that can read the otoliths or if they need to be sent up to Washington.

The 2013 STEP Conference will be this weekend (April 6<sup>th</sup>) and I'm sure Clyde, Harold, and I will give a report about the Conference at the next Coos River STEP meeting.

Both commercial and recreational Chinook salmon fishing has opened in the ocean. I've heard a few reports of bottom fish anglers accidentally catching a few salmon, so I'm sure anglers targeting salmon should be able to find a few fish. Speaking of bottom fish, as of April 1 fishing for rockfish, ling cod, and other bottom fish is now restricted to under 30 fathoms.

Finally, later this month we (ODFW Charleston office) will be meeting with other fish biologist from up and down the Oregon coast to discuss preseason forecasts for fall Chinook and possible wild coho in-river fisheries.

As always stop by our office in Charleston or give us a call at (541)-888-5515 if you have any questions.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife