

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

August 2013

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NEWSLETTER

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DONATIONS

Phillip Carlson

Jim Davison

Jim won the 50-50 drawing and donated his winnings to STEP. It's these donations that helps the hatchery pay it's bills.

(THANKS)

Don't forget membership meeting July 9th.

HATCHERY NEWS

Here at the hatchery we do have the dam boards out and the pond all washed out.

Harold has been working on getting the water all plumbed in for the new hatchbox done. He also has got some fittings to connect to the water line that will deliver the water to each hatchbox without having all the air bubbles in the water, that get in the hatchbox and cause big pockets of air. These air pockets cause the water flow to miss some of the eggs, and these eggs die for lack of oxygen. We also built a new drain box for the waste water that will fit two hatchboxes.

Now we will have all 6 hatchboxes in pairs of 2, it looks really good.

We still need to get some reinforcement support along the sides of this last hatchbox to keep it from popping out when we fill it with water. When this happens the egg plate won't fit down in where it's suppose to be. This egg plate fits close all around so the salmon eggs won't fall down into the bio-rings. We only want the alvins in these bio-rings, it's their place to grow.

PICNIC AT THE NOBLE CREEK HATCHERY

Coos River STEP is going to have a picnic at the Noble Creek Hatchery on August 10th. We will all meet around noon to show everyone the different projects that we have done, and are planning to do, and plan to eat at 1:00. We are asking the STEP volunteers and supporters to give us a call, if you plan on coming. 541-756-6958 or 541-267-3563.



This screen enclosure has been used in the past to hold fry with coded wire tags for a few weeks after the tags were inserted. This lets ODFW check to see the percentage of tags retained. It is now surplus and has just been sitting in the weeds. It will now go on the scrap metal pile to be recycled.



Clyde cut down a big redwood tree and a Douglas fir above their house on the hill side. It was milled into planks along with the Doug fir we used on the hatchery and barn roofs. The redwood is now quite dry so Clyde is making picnic tables for a few friends. It appears it will keep him out of trouble for a while.



Harold called a work party on July 16th. Pro-Build had donated ten gallons of latex paint to paint the inside of the hatchery. We started by painting the outside of the tanks used for raising our Chinook fry. We're looking for paint that will hold up under water and be fish friendly for the insides of the tanks.



Each of our hatch boxes has a screen in the bottom where the sediment builds up during usage. Our work party on July 23rd was to move all hatch boxes outside and flush thoroughly. They'll now be re-plumbed back into the water inflow and drainage system so we're ready for Chinook eggs this November.

For those of you that like to fish salmon in the ocean, the recreational fin clipped coho season just opened up on July 1. As I am writing this I have received a couple of messages from friends that have been out fishing on the ocean today and they have been catching both fin clipped coho and Chinook. Reports like this make it hard to stay working especially when I'm sitting in front of the computer. This also reminds me that we are only a month or so away before fall Chinook start returning to Coos Bay. Guess I better get my salmon fishing gear ready to go.

During the summer months I don't have many activities planned for the hatchery other than to make sure I have all my paperwork completed from the past season. I think I just caught up on all the paperwork today when I sent out the Coded Wire Tag release report. This year we had a coded wire tag retention rate of 91%, meaning 9% of the fish that were coded wire tagged lost their tag. Typically the percent tag loss is somewhere around 3%.

This summer I will continue to work on a better way to predict fall Chinook returning to the Coos Basin. I have been working with the estuary seining data to come up with estimate of the total number of fall Chinook smolts heading to the ocean. With that number I am working with other data (like ocean productivity, sea surface temperature, etc.) to come up with an estimate of the number of adults that will return. I have been talking with other ODFW fish biologist that have been using this same ocean data to predict adult salmon returns to northeast Oregon rivers. I figure if I talk to other biologists that are already doing this I can learn what has worked or didn't work from them. In other words, why reinvent the wheel.

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