

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

February 2015

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NEWSLETTER

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NEW MEMBER

June Tillia

DONATIONS

James & Betty Davison

Richard & Verna Lilienthal

Dave & Sandy Gongales

Lee Hockema

Reese Dixon

Sandy Jones & June Tillia

Doris Hillman

Paul & Christine Merz

Albert Hanson

The SUPPORT of so many volunteers and supporters is what keeps this hatchery working. Coos River STEP **THANKS** everyone.

HATCHERY NEWS

Things here at the Hatchery are running really nice and smooth, with Bob and Vickie helping to keep things moving forward. They are learning what needs to be done for the fish in each stage of their life, and are willing helpers.

The COHO that were kept here for samples to check their otis mark are doing good. They are just starting to swim around some, and hiding in the bio rings. This way when we recover any adults from the streams where we put these eyed COHO eggs we'll know for sure if they are the result of our planting work.

There was some COHO Jacks found this year in these streams that we have frozen that will be checked to see if these were some of our work. We still need some more funds to cover the costs of surveying these streams for returning COHO adults, the next three years. We're hoping for some very good results of this test. If so maybe we will be able to expand this project.

WORK AT THE HATCHERY

We have pressure washed Nora's pond, and put the overflow pipe and screen in and extended the inlet pipe to help prevent any trauma to the incoming fry.

We put new piping to hatch boxes 1-4 and 7 to Nora's pond. We uncovered all 4 inside tanks, cleaned them and routed the piping for the split hatch box 5/6 to the inside tanks. One of the inside tanks will be reserved for the fry from Lonnie Hampton's hatch boxes. Gary was out and said we could remove the hatch box screens and let the swim up Fry into Nora's pond, so we have removed the screen from boxes 6 and 4 and our first 2 groups are free, so thousands of them have started their journey to Nora's pond. We have 4 feeders setup and running with starter feed.

VICKIE



Bob used the pressure washer to clean the walls in Nora's Pond. His comment was "Wow, the walls are actually white". The next step was getting the screen installed so none of our fish disappear out the outflow pipe. We're only a week away from moving fish out of the hatch boxes to the pond.



The inside holding tanks will be full of fish this year as we have over 600,000 eggs hatching. The tanks are being cleaned for use in a few weeks.



The fry need a way to get from the hatch boxes into the holding tanks. The two inch PVC pipe goes down to the floor then up and over the top of the holding tank. This allows fry to swim out of the hatch boxes at their leisure.



This is the actual installation of the two inch pipe that transports the fry from the hatch box to the holding tank. This is only for hatch box five and six. The fry from the first four hatch boxes output into Nora's Pond. None of the fry are fed in the hatch boxes, only in the holding tanks or Nora's Pond.

Chinook at Noble Creek are starting to be ponded in Nora's Pond and are starting to feed. We have 1 bag of fish food on hand which should be plenty of food for the next week or so. The rest of the fish food has been ordered and should be delivered anytime. I ordered a little less fish food this year for Noble Creek to minimize the amount of leftover fish food we have at the end of the year. But there should also be enough money left to order more bags of fish food just in case it looks like we may run out before we are ready to release the pre-smolts. Speaking of pre-smolts, as of now the Auto Fin marking Trailer is scheduled to be at Noble Creek for two weeks in late May. With the trailer we should not have any problem getting 100% of our Chinook marked before release.

Last month I attended the Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries Society's Hatchery Wild Symposium in Portland. The symposium had presentations from genetic scientist and fish biologists from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and the Columbia River Tribes. There were over 270 attendees that listened to talks on the latest science in improving hatchery fish performance, interactions of hatchery fish with wild fish (salmon and other native species), and how managers provide conservation for wild fish while still providing fisheries.

Steelhead fishing in the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile basins has been good so far this year. Although there have been times when the river levels have been low and clear that it's made steelhead fishing difficult. There is plenty of time yet to get out and steelhead fish, I'm just hoping that I can get out when water conditions are just right.

In other news from ODFW, coho spawning surveys are wrapping up along the Oregon Coast and winter steelhead spawning surveys are just starting. The preliminary coho spawner estimates for the Oregon Coast is over 350,000 adults which will be a new record since 1990. It will be another month before we get the final coho spawner estimate.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. Feb. 10th
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

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Coos River STEP P.O. BOX 5907 CHARLESTON, Oregon 97420

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