

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

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

January 2014

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## DECEMBER DONATIONS

John & Dianne Bender

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Coos River STEP dues, for the calendar year 2014 are due now, on or before March to be included on the mailing list for this news letter.

**THANKS** if you have already paid, and a special **THANKS** if you also made a donation.

## HATCHERY NEWS

The first eyed Chinook eggs that were returned to the Noble Creek Hatchery are beginning to hatch into Alvins. We also have another spawning of Chinook eggs here all eyed and in our hatchboxes now. This makes about one-half of the production of salmon we will have this year. We will receive the other half of these eggs as soon as they are eyed and ready to move back into our hatchboxes. There should be 600,000 eggs plus enough more to cover the mortality that occurs. We have everything ready now for these salmon eggs, and swim-up fry for this year.

We have about a month before we will need to have the feed here to feed all these fish when they swim-up looking for something to grow on. It all looks really good for the hatching of these eggs with very low mortality so far. The Bandon hatchery is doing a nice job of getting them ready for our hatchboxes.

## COHO EGG INJECTION EXPERIMENT

We are still waiting for the weather to rain enough to get the COHO salmon to come up Noble Creek to the hatchery so we can spawn enough to get the 30,000 eggs we need to do this experiment. There hasn't been enough rain to encourage these salmon to swim up the creek. I'm sure there is enough water for them to make it up to the hatchery if they would try. We're hoping that this rain that is suppose to come now will get them to swim on up the creek. It is getting so late for them that I'm concerned about our experiment for this year having the right number of eggs for this program. I guess we need to do a rain dance or anything that could help.



December 3rd was a work party day. We pulled out twelve female Chinook, five males and twelve jacks from the trap. There were a few Coho, one male, one female and two jacks. They all went to Nora's Pond for future spawning. All of the gates have been removed and put away for the year.



This is the second batch of Chinook eggs that have been returned to us from Bandon Hatchery. Our first batch was 90,701 eggs on December 10th. This batch is 210,945 eggs delivered on December 23rd. We now have about half of the eggs we need for our release of 600,000+ Chinook pre-smolts the end of May 2014.



This barrel has been designed by Paul Merz. Its purpose is to help settle out sediment from the water before it goes into the chiller and incubator for our Coho eggs. The rain hasn't brought many Coho but we'll be ready when the rains and Coho arrive.



This is the chiller from Tod Jones at Redd Zone. The water temperature in Noble Creek is 42.9 degrees. We need the chiller to bring down the temperature by five degrees and hold it for twenty four hours to mark the otolith of the Coho being hatched. The chiller at 10:45 AM was 42.9 and at 5:00 PM it was 36.5 degrees when Clyde turned it off. It took longer than we anticipated to get the five degree drop but we got there!

Even though the calendar says it's January I wonder if it really is winter yet after looking at how low the local rivers. With the river levels very low and clear for over the past two months adult coho have had a hard time finding good water to spawn in. Steelhead anglers have been reporting adult coho holding in deep holes in the main rivers and even a few coho still staging in tidewater. Steelhead anglers are also being affected by the lack of normal winter water levels. The very low water is keeping steelhead in the very lower reaches of our local rivers, so anglers are being forced to fish in or very near the head of tide to catch steelhead.

Fortunately for the Chinook in the Coos Basin there was enough water in October/November for the fish to distribute throughout the main rivers for spawning. Our crew that was operating the Dellwood Fish Trap and conducting spawning surveys in the South Fork Coos River finished up their work at the end of last month. They had a good year marking 1,200 adult Chinook and then finding over 1,300 carcasses. All our data from the surveys has been entered and I had a chance to run our numbers for this project. We ended up with 5,125 adult Chinook spawning in the South Fork Coos basin, which was very similar to the previous year.

I also have the completed numbers from this past fall's salmon angler creel survey. Overall, anglers fishing in Coos Bay had a very good year harvesting 7,506 adult and 1,398 jack Chinook. Also the returning hatchery Chinook, which we all work so hard to raise, made up 82% of the fish harvested. It's great to see such a high contribution of hatchery fish to the overall Coos Basin harvest because we do all the hard work to raise these fish so anglers can catch them when they return several years later.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. JAN. 14th  
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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*Please make checks payable to: Coos River STEP P.O. BOX 5907 CHARLESTON, Oregon 97420*

**JOIN STEP!**

You can **SUPPORT** Coos River STEP Association and receive this news letter for only \$15.00 per Family! (Tax deductible!)

See order form at left E-mail news items or questions about Coos River STEP to

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**Coos River S.T.E.P.**

**P.O.Box 5907  
Charleston, Oregon 97420**

