

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

January 2015

Directors

PRESIDENT	
Clyde Haga	267-3563
VICE PRESIDENT	
Harold Brown	756-6958
SECRETARY	
Ray Lee	267-4176
TREASURER	
Mickey McCready	888-5906
S.T.E.P. BIOLOGIST	
Gary Vonderohe	888-5515
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Charlie Gross	267-7979
Paul Merz	888-4425
Dorothy Haga	267-3563
NEWSLETTER	
Ray Lee	267-4176
Clyde Haga	267-3563

DONATIONS DEC. TO JAN.6th. 2015

John & Diane	Bender
Bob & Vickie	Flemming
Sally	Jones
Jan & Ray	Lee
Reese	Bender
Charlie	Gross
Walter & Alma	Beaty
Al & Sue	Harker
David	West
Del	Atkins
Norm & Kathy	Jacobson

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

HATCHERY NEWS

This is the last year for our COHO experiment of eyeing 30,000 of their eggs, and then putting them in designated streams to increase the number of adults in these streams. We will need to monitor the streams where we put these COHO eggs for the next 3 years to see how many adults survived from this experiment. We're hoping this will make more COHO salmon for the fishermen to catch, and more make it back to spawn. This process does not require the fish to be fed or cared for at all, it's all up to the fish to find their own food in these creeks. If we can show good success for these salmon we're hoping to expand this program to many creeks around Coos Bay.

This program works very well in the creeks in Alaska.

Our Chinook eggs are all hatched into Alvins, except the last two groups, at this time. One of the last groups is here, while the other group of 40,624 is in a hatchbox at Lonnie Hamptons.

2015 JANUARY 13 ANNUAL STEP MEETING

Our annual Coos River STEP meeting will start a new year. We will have the officers and directors voted on and elected for 2015 at this meeting.

This last year has been a real success story here at the hatchery. We had a good return of Chinook that made it back to the hatchery for our annual spawning, to get the eggs that we need to have a 600,000 pre-smolt release.

There were lots more COHO return, than we have ever seen, that were naturally hatched in Noble Creek. Were hoping this trend will continue in the years to come. There is a lot of work and improvement that has been done in Noble Creek this last summer. Also the Watershed people took out the culverts and put a bridge in their place right here above the Hatchery.



December 9th, 2014 saw a happy Coos River STEP crowd turnout for potluck and Christmas gift exchange. Marge Brown is trying to decide which gift to pick up. The rules are no shaking or picking up and putting back down. Pick it up and it's yours unless someone steals it from you in a later round.



Paul and Brian have the back pack pump for the Coho egg injection program out in the hatchery. They are trying to remember choke and throttle settings from last year. Paul pulled the starter rope three time and it started immediately. After a minute of warm-up Paul turned the pump on and it worked perfectly.



The Coho eggs have to be counted but first they need to have the dead eggs removed. They are the ones that are a light orange and have no sparkle. We generally expect about five percent of the eggs to die in the hatch box. Coho eggs put in the gravel by wild fish suffer about a ninety five percent mortality rate. Coos River STEP members like 95% survival much better.



This little cooler holds nine thousand Coho eggs that have been cleaned of any dead eggs. They are on their way to streams nears Sumner, OR. Forty five hundred will go into Wilson Creek and the rest into another creek based on water flow in the creeks. All of the rest of our eggs will be injected into the gravel before this next Sunday when the eggs are likely to start hatching based on the water temperatures for the last month.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is having a great start to 2015. Don't forget to buy your 2015 license before going out on your next fishing trip. If you steelhead fish don't forget that in the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile basins anglers can harvest a third additional hatchery steelhead in these basins. Reports are that steelhead fishing in the Coos and Coquille basins have been a little slower than normal while fishing in Tenmile Creek has been very good so far this year.

By the time you read this article we should be done planting the eyed coho eggs in the tributaries of upper Catching Slough and some of these coho eggs will be very close to hatching. Between spawning the coho in late November and the warm water temperatures this winter it really has sped up the hatching date. This was the last year of planting eggs so the next three seasons we will collect as many carcasses in the Catching Slough tributaries to see how successful the project was.

As of last week we have received all of our Chinook eggs for the year and all but the last two groups have hatched. Because of the warm water temperatures this winter the Chinook eggs are about a month ahead of schedule. The cold snap we had at the end of December/beginning of January was much needed to help slow down the development of the Chinook eggs and alevins. If these colder water temperatures don't persist, it will push everything including release dates up sooner.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
541-888-5515

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. JAN. 13th
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

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
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