

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

July 2013

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

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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.



All of the fish are gone for the year. Now it's a work party to clean up the Hatchery so we'll be ready for next year. This is the pen used to put pre-smolts in that have a coded wire tag in their snout. They will be checked with a wand before release to determine the percentage of CWT's still in place.



These dam boards have been in place for months. They now come out to be stored for use next year. The electric winch is helpful with some of the lifting.



The belt feeders have fish food still inside that will attract mice. All are washed, air dried and stored in the rafters to be ready for next year.



Harold seems to have the pressure washing down pat so he gets the job for another year.

Congratulations, Harold!

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

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. JULY 9th
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

clyde@noblecreekfish.net
www.noblecreekfish.net

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