

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

July 2012

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STEP DONATIONS

This last month we have had so many donations by lots of supporters for the garage sale that we can't name them all. **(THANKS)** Marla O'Neill won the 50-50 at our potluck and donated her half back to Coos River STEP. **THANKS**

HATCHERY NEWS

This past month Harold has been trying to clean up the hatchery. He has had Don and some others helping him, but most of the time he just comes out when he has some time to spare. His work is helping to make things look more orderly and clean, every where he has been so far.

The rain gutters were put on last year and are the plastic kind that shouldn't rust on us like the old ones. There is a rain gutter that is coming loose that we will need to fix when we work on the roof. Like Harold told someone the other day, you could see an airplane flying overhead it's so full of holes. This will be a major job for this summer to get this roof fixed so it won't leak all the time. The old shakes are the original roofing, and it needs to come off. If we have enough help and time we would like to see about painting the buildings again this year. Most of the outside walls have only been painted once since they were built, and some places not at all. We'll see how everything goes and hope for the best.

SEA LION

We have had a Sea lion here at the Greenacres tide gate for about 20 days. He has been really noisy, especially at night according to the people that live in that area. He has been up in the county road several times and doesn't like to move out of the way for the cars. There was an article in the World news with a picture about the firemen trying to get him out of the way so somebody wouldn't run into him, and damage their car. They estimated that he would weigh at least 400 pounds, way to big to argue with about the right of way. He went on up above the tide gate whenever he wanted, and he went just about where the tide gets to. This is just one place below the Church, and he didn't always stay in the creek, sometimes coming out across the field. There were several calls to ODFW and a Bio. came down from Newport and took him on 7/3/12.

This morning I was watching the weather forecast for the upcoming week and it looks like summer is finally here. The river levels are running higher than normal for this time of year due to the rain we received in May and June. Higher water means there should be great rearing conditions for the juvenile salmon, steelhead, and trout in our rivers.

This summer I will be busy sampling fish throughout the district and we are fortunate enough to have additional help from an Oregon State University summer intern, Talo Silver. Talo grew up in Coos Bay and will be a junior at OSU this next fall. We will be seining on both the lower Coos and Coquille estuaries all summer long, conducting some fish presence/absence surveys in the Coquille basin, sampling for smallmouth bass in the South Fork Coquille River, and preparing for the 4th year of sampling for the Coos fall Chinook Monitoring and Evaluation.

For those who crab in Coos Bay, the ODFW Marine Program is tagging red rock crabs in Coos Bay to gain a better understanding of their growth, age, movement, population size, and fishery. Red rock crabs are native to Oregon but are only found in a few Oregon estuaries and rarely in the rocky nearshore. Red rock crabs are tagged with a small blue “floy tag” in the right rear area of their carapace. If you catch a tagged red rock crab you can bring it to ODFW Charleston office (**during business hours**) at the end of Boat Basin Drive (63538 Boat Basin Drive, Charleston, OR) and we will obtain measurements and return them to you. Outside of business hours: **If you do not want to keep it for consumption:** Leave in bucket labeled “Red rock crab study” found just to the right of the front door at ODFW Charleston. Leave your name and phone number, and tag number of crab. **If you want to keep it to eat:** Keep the carapace (top shell) whole and the tag, bring it in to the Charleston office for a reward.

Just a reminder this years South Coast STEP picnic will be held at Tugman State Park (just north of Lakeside) on August 18. Like the previous years this should be a great time and a good opportunity to talk to other volunteer groups throughout the South Coast that are working to improve salmon and steelhead fisheries.

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

GARAGE SALE REPORT

The sale last month was a great success, thanks to all the generous donors, volunteers and buyers. We opened "the doors" at 8AM Friday and by 8:15 we had sold a large trailer load of dry, split, Maple. This was donated by Greg and Toni Brown. Another large donation came from Bob and Vickie Fleming. Bob's Mom passed away and they donated a houseful of household and personal items. They even made a trip down from Florence with their pickup and trailer full to deliver it.

It would be difficult to name all the wonderful members who donated lots and lots of items, but you know who you are. Also the many members who turned out to either help or buy, or both. Of course we could not do this without the generous loan of Shorty and Loretta Burcher's shop and yard. They are both tireless workers and very gracious hosts, opening their home to the volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, the following members were there helping out: Shorty & Loretta, Marge and Harold Brown, Greg Brown, Dorothy & Clyde Haga, Don Perkins, Ray Lee, Jimmy Davison, Marla & Johnny O'Neill and Mickey McCready.

We also want to thank NW Natural Gas for the printing of 300 notices of the Garage Sale, which were added to The World papers in the Charleston-Barview area.

Thank you to the carrier for doing this.

by
Mickey McCready