

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

June 2014

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

NEW MEMBERS

Darrel McCarty

Bill & Johanne Haferkamp

DONATION

Reese Dixon

Yearly dues need to be paid to continue as a current member of Coos River STEP.

Look on your mailing label on the news letter at the last number on your address. This is the year that you have paid for. If we are wrong please let us know, we need you.

HATCHERY NEWS

The State trailer that can cut off the adipose fin of our salmon is hoping to finish up marking all the Chinook babies by Thursday evening. If they don't get them all marked by then they still have Friday to finish up. This unit also counts all that it marks, and it looks like we will be really close to our 600,000 fish for this year's release. These fish are at the 75 per pound size so we are releasing as they are fin marked. After some time off me we need to call some work parties to clean up our fish feeders, and put them away for the season. Also the raceway needs to be cleaned out, after all the fish and feeding that we have done in them. There's tables to move back to their storage place, and water pipe to take apart and store away, and more.

There is still the sample group of 500 Chinook that we have here in a pen to check to see how many have retained their coded wire tag. This tag identifies them as fish from Noble Creek.

ANNUAL STEP BARBACUE AUGUST 9th, 2014 TUGMAN PARK at Eel Lake, Lakeside

Call Armand Pena for more information, 759-2709

Reese Bender has resigned the STAC Committee. He plans to stay involved with the STEP program by volunteering locally

The department is looking for a replacement for him to represent this district, (Coos County) as soon as possible.

BANDON PACIFIC SEAFOOD CHARLESTON

Has donated some salt to Coos River STEP to use in the control of the (horse tail) weeds in our parking lot. Paul Merz pick it up and brought it out to the Hatchery. **(THANKS)**



We had a work party on May 13th to get ready for the fin clipping trailer. We need to crowd up all the fish so they can be moved to the trailer. Harold is screwing down loose places in the screen we will use to crowd the fish.



Fish will be pushed up with a seine to crowd them into this holding trap. We then will use hand dip nets to put them in five gallon buckets to be carried to the fin clipping trailer.



On May 19th Gary and Harold are using a seine to move the fish up to the top of the raceway. We will then insert the screen that goes across the whole raceway and block the fish into the upper third of the raceway. That will make it much easier to use a smaller seine to get the fish into the screen holding trap.



The inside of the fin clipping trailer is amazing. There are five stations to clip the fish. The three in the center are for average size fish. The ones on the end are for smaller or larger fish. A camera takes a photo to locate the adipose fin then it's clipped and another photo to make sure it's gone. Rejects are sent to a manual clip station.

We just started up the second week of marking fish with the Auto Fish Marking Trailer at Noble Creek Hatchery. During the first week we marked 306,000 juvenile Chinook and we should be able to finish off marking all the fish in the raceway by the end of this week. In addition to marking during the first week, the trailer inserted Coded Wire Tags into over 40,000 Chinook. We are holding back a sample group of 500 fish with coded wire tags for 30 days to determine the percentage of tag loss, which is usually very low.

Last week Clyde, Harold, and I opened up the divider between the rearing pond and the trap to allow the fish that have already been clipped to start their journey to the ocean. We also moved the fish from Nora's Pond into the upper end of the rearing pond with the remaining fish to be clipped. It won't be long and all the fish will be out of the raceway, well at least until this fall.

Since the last newsletter I've been seining two more times in the upper tidewater sections of the Millicoma and in the South Fork Coos. We caught lots of Chinook juveniles a few weeks ago. On the most recent trip we caught fewer fish but the water temperature on the South Fork Coos River was starting to approach the upper 60 degrees. Because of the warm water temperatures that was my last sampling trip in the upper tidewater for this year. In two weeks I will start seining the lower Coos Bay from the airport to the jetties. I will continue to seine the lower bay until early September.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. JUNE 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

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

WEB SITE
noblecreekfish.net

E-mail
cehaga@charter.net

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