

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

March 2014

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DAY LIGHT TIME

Day light saving time starts March 9th, 2 or 3am. Be sure to set your clocks (spring ahead) one hour, or you may be late all day Sunday.

NEW MEMBERS

We will have the new member, and donation list in the April letter, for Feb. and March. 2014

COHO EGG INJECTION EXPERIMENT

Coos River STEP will be planting about 26,000 otolith marked eyed COHO eggs in tributaries to Catching Slough in the Sumner area, beginning Friday March 7th.

Anyone interested in helping or observing can catch up with the crew at Noble Creek hatchery and join in. Our schedule is flexible and will change from day to day, so if you plan on joining us please call the day before to find out when and where we will be working. Rain gear, waders and lunch suggested.

Paul Merz

Ph. 541-260-9211

HATCHERY NEWS

Things are starting to pop, here at the hatchery. Our salmon eggs are all hatched into alvins, with about half of them ready for feed. We have most of those that were ready moved in Nora's pond, where we can feed them. There is one more hatch box that the fish are ready to be moved. The other two boxes of fish will be ready to go into Nora's pond in about a week. The belt feeders are in place over the pond so we can use them when needed, and it won't be very long.

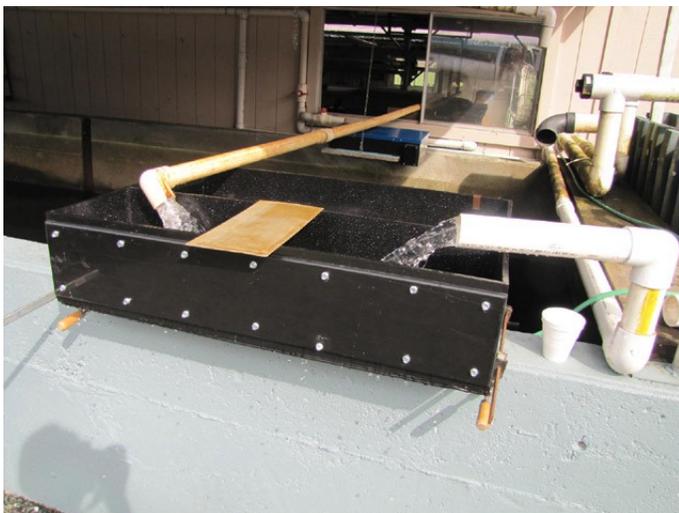
We do have one last hatch-box of fish that we want to put in the rearing tanks that we have inside the building. These fish should be ready for feed in about two weeks. We put them in these inside rearing tanks because they usually grow a little faster than the ones outside. We need them to catch up as much as possible with the first fish, so our salmon pre molts are near the same size to fin mark before release time.



On February 24th we had a work party to prepare Nora's Pond for our Chinook fry. Harold used the fire hose to wash out built up silt. We then installed a half dozen belt feeders so we are ready for the fry to swim out of the hatch boxes.



This is the oxygen separator that is being installed by Tod Jones of Redd Zone on March 4th. It removes the nitrogen from air and delivers the remaining oxygen to the low head oxygenator (LHO) to super charge the water with oxygen.



This is the LHO that has been installed on the side of Nora's Pond. We have plumbed two different flows of water into the pond. We used our dissolved oxygen (DO) meter to test the water on the pond. It was at 6.9 parts per million (PPM). We turned up the oxygen separator and got clear up to 16 PPM then turned back down to about 8.0 PPM. That's enough.



Clyde and Harold said that if there was plenty of oxygen in Nora's Pond we should push fry out of the hatch boxes into the pond. Harold removed bio rings and netted fry that we moved to the pond in buckets. The screens of the hatch boxes have been out for a few weeks and many have moved to the pond. Now all will go!

This needs to be read again, so there will be a better understanding of this Coastal Multi-species Conservation Plan.

Last week I attended the North Bend ODFW public meeting for the Coastal Multi-species Conservation Plan, and the next morning read the article in the local news paper. There still might be a little confusion that a few people think there will be some cuts in existing hatchery releases in the Coos Basin.

The draft Conservation plan does not have any cuts in any of the hatchery production in the Coos Basin, but instead there could be a shift of releasing the Fall Chinook pre-smolts from the West Fork Millicoma River, and move the release site some where down stream into tide water. There has been some discussion on where to release these fish from, but nothing has been finalized yet.

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

You may be able to get more up to date information now, as this part of Gary's article was in Februarys News Letter.

COHO EGGS, STREAM INJECTION

Coho project is well under way for this year. Paul has been real busy this week getting a lot done. Gary and Paul on Monday got the eggs in Panther Creek a trib. to Wilson Creek Then on Tuesday Paul got Brian to help put the COHO eggs in trib. D to Wilson creek. Brian helped Paul again on Wednesday put the COHO eggs in Sealander Creek, and they will finish up the egg injection project for this year this Thursday, weather permitting. They will be working in Cardwell creek, which is a tributary to Wilson creek, and planting Wilson creek too.

Climbing through the brush that grows along and over these creeks is no easy thing, especially for these middle aged men. We really need some younger people to volunteer to help in this experiment with the COHO salmon.

This STEP project is just one way that we're trying to copy what Alaska is doing to bring back our wild COHO salmon to viable numbers, that have proven to reproduce the same as a natural spawned salmon. We're hoping for great success in survival numbers that will swim up out of the gravel from this experiment.

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. MAR. 11th
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

cehaga@copper.net

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