

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

March 2015

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

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DONATIONS

Walter & Alma Beaty

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

THANKS everyone.

We also would like to thank Bob and Vicky for their extra care of our baby salmon, and all the extra things that they do for the hatchery. **THANKS**

HATCHERY NEWS

The high water floods that we have had this winter has sure left a lot of mud and stuff in our hatchery holding pond, and trap areas. Some places over a foot of it. We have been able to get the creek to remove most of it so far. It doesn't look like this has caused any damage that we can see to the hatchery. Our settlings ponds for our gravity water are also filled to capacity. This does give our water filters a challenge trying to keep the silt out of our hatchboxes and ponds, so far so good.

The new bridge right above the hatchery where they took out the culverts, looks to be holding really good. We will need to have some road rock put down this spring as soon as the mud dries up so we can. The fence that was put along the creek is looking pretty good. We did have to add more barb wire, and some posts to keep the livestock off the creek banks.

With all the dirt that was moved to install this bridge last fall, we sure have had a lot of mud.

The fry migration from the hatch boxes is complete, and the fry from Lonnie's boxes are also here in the tanks. We converted the eyed injection pump to use as a sludge pump for Nora's pond, it works very well. We've been plagued with dead batteries for our cordless drills, so Harold donated two batteries, a drill and a circular saw. Paul donated a motion/security light and we installed it on the office building facing the parking area. Thank you, Harold & Paul. We made a dump run to Beaver Hill and took old paint, batteries, & other misc. stuff to recycle. The dissolved oxygen meter (D.O) is working well and we monitor the D.O. regularly, so the concentrator and oxygenator are doing their job. Our firewood pile is looking better since Harold brought out a load of seasoned firewood donated by Ocean Terminal, and we cut and stacked a couple loads of green alder for next winter.

Bob & Vickie



February 10th was a work party for a handful of people with pickup trucks. Gary had brought one bag of food for the Chinook babies ten days ago and it was almost gone. The shipment of food from Canada arrived at Menasha and it was time to move bags of food to the hatchery. Forklifts are a lot easier than loading by hand. Thanks, Menasha.



Bob has most of the bio-rings all washed and sacked. This has been a real big job in prior years as the moss and algae builds up and needs to be sprayed off so they are clean for use next year.



It has been about three and a half years since we last had a firewood cutting work party. We had at least two cords we cut up from a dock at the log yard. Bob and Vickie went up the logging road behind the barn and cut a lot of Alder the road building operation left behind. We should be set for another couple of years.



Bob called for a work party on Tuesday March 3rd at 9:00 AM. All six hatch boxes are empty of fish. Time to clean out all of the mud and debris that builds up under the lower screen. We had a good turn out with Bob, Vickie, Ray, Clyde and Harold. Two people were spraying with hoses so the job we thought wouldn't be finished until after lunch was all cleaned up and put away before 11:00 AM.

We delivered all the Chinook fish food to Noble Creek early last month. The Chinook are all ponded, feeding well, and are looking good so far this spring. Clyde, Bob, and Vicki are doing such a great job raising these fish that I only need to occasionally stop in to see how things are going. Throughout the spring I will be checking on the growth of the fish by counting how many fish per pound. Our goal is to release the Chinook when they reach 75 fish per pound.

We have been sampling in the canals of Winterlake and Beaver Slough with hoop traps again this year. The goal is to keep track of the total number of fish caught in each hoop trap by fish species but we also measure, weigh, and tag the juvenile coho that we catch. Last week we trapped and tagged 61 coho that ranged in size from 3 to 5 inches long. Our hope is that we will be able to recapture a few of these tagged fish in the next couple of months to get some growth data. We haven't been able to sample as much in these canals this year because of the extremely high water a couple of times.

Steelhead fishing in the Coos, Coquille, and Tenmile basins has been slow lately. A lot of the slow fishing can be contributed to the low, clear water we have had for a few weeks now. But in the Coos Basin the lower harvest of hatchery steelhead can also be contributed to two years ago only releasing half the number of smolts as usual. There wasn't a cut in the program we just had low survival of smolts that year at the hatchery.

The ODFW spawning survey crews have switched over from coho surveys to steelhead surveys. Through the end of February the surveyors were not finding too many steelhead redds but hopefully this week they will see more spawning activity.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

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

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