

# Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

May 2013

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### NEWSLETTER

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## DONATIONS

Patrica McCready in  
Memory of Brother in Law  
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Redd Zone L. L. C.

## HATCHERY NEWS

This last month has been mostly feeding the Chinook and cleaning their pond. Harold came out to sweep the holding pond that is (120 feet long). It needed to be cleaned, Gary didn't know that he did that so he came out and swept it again. There was some more stuff that needed to be out of there. It is pretty clean now as we are letting more water run through this pond and it's helping to keep the floor cleaner. We have it in good shape for the people to do the coded wire tag work this week. They should have all 30,000 tagged by the Friday, or sooner. There is four people working 8 hour days that are paid to do a good job.

Harold and Clyde have been the crew that have been working on different projects this last month. We have the one sand filter disconnected from the water line and ready to be moved. It wasn't letting enough water to pass through it so we had it by passed. We also got a valve on the sprinkler system over Nora's pond, so we don't have to use a wooden plug there.

## HATCHERY OPEN HOUSE

We are having an Open House, and Fin clipping day here at the Noble Creek Hatchery on Saturday May 11. We are hoping to have a good turn out of visitors, and helpers. We will start about 8:00 AM with coffee and pastry. Gary will start the fin clipping with instructions at 9:00 AM. We will try to let everyone who wants to, try the fin clipping. We want the public to be involved, and see some of the work that the Volunteers are doing. It's all done to help create a good Chinook fishery in Coos Bay for all fisherman. This Hatchery was built with all volunteer donated labor. The Coos River STEP group has been involved in helping build the Millicoma and original Morgan Creek Hatcheries, with lots of volunteer hours donated.



This is the color guard for the celebration of life for Glynn McCready on April 13th, 2013. More than one hundred people showed up to pay their respects for the long time member and friend of Coos River STEP.



We're getting ready to clean out Nora's Pond. The first thing is to wash off the screen before Harold uses the broom to sweep debris off the bottom of the raceway. Clyde is an old hand at this as he's done it for years.



Harold sweeps the raceway slowly to pull the debris up off the bottom. This lets the slow current move the debris downstream. The screen at the bottom of the raceway has to be cleaned occasionally so the water continues to flow through the raceway.



The dissolved oxygen level in the stream is critical for the survival of the fry. Clyde is using the DO meter we acquired through a STAC mini grant last year. The critical level is about 5 parts per million (PPM). Today's reading is close to 9 PPM which is very good. The temperature is up to 57 degrees which is the highest of the year so far. Spring weather is great!

It's hard to believe that its already the beginning of May. May at a Coos Basin STEP hatchery means it's time for fin clipping juvenile fall Chinook. This week a crew has started and will finish the Coded Wire Tagging of approximately 30,000 fall Chinook. Coded Wire Tags (CWTs) are placed into the snout of the fish and each hatchery/release group is given a code specific to that release group. For example all the fall Chinook tagged this year at Noble Creek with the CWT would have a code like 92453 and all the fall Chinook CWT tagged this year at Morgan Creek would have a code like 92454. These tag codes will not be used again so when a CWT is recovered from an adult salmon we will know exactly which hatchery it was release from and what year it was release. Information from CWTs are very important and help us determine things like survival rates and harvest rates (both commercial and recreational).

In the next couple of weeks we will have a few different groups out to the Hatchery to help adipose clip a portion of the fall Chinook that did not receive a CWT. Currently the fall Chinook are weighing in at 100 fish per pound. The fish will be ready for release once they reach 75 fish per pound, which should be in a couple of weeks.

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