

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

November 2013

Directors

PRESIDENT	
Harold Brown	756-6958
VICE PRESIDENT	
Dorothy Haga	267-3563
SECRETARY	
Ray Lee	267-4176
TREASURER	
Mickey McCready	888-5906
S.T.E.P. BIOLOGIST	
Gary Vonderohe	888-5515
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
JOHN O'NEILL	267-7874
MARJORIE BROWN	756-6958
MARLA O'NEILL	267-7874
JAMES DAVISON	756-3142
Shorty Burcher	888-5369
Charlie Gross	267-7979
Paul Merz	888-4425
Clyde Haga	267-3563
NEWSLETTER	
Ray Lee	267-4176
Clyde Haga	267-3563

OCT.. DONATIONS

Shorty Burcher
Won the 50-50 jackpot
and donated his winnings
back to STEP.

Doris Hillman
Richard Moen
Bob & Vickie Fleming

Coos River STEP
THANKS everyone who
donates **funds** and their
time, to help keep the
Noble Creek Hatchery
releasing baby salmon.

HATCHERY NEWS

We have been busy this last month working on repairing the 4" water lines that run our hatchboxes. We had Jim bring his backhoe over to clean out the settling ponds for these two lines. One of the water lines was broken where the Elk cross over it in the creek. We got it repaired and put a protective 6" pipe over it so hopefully it won't break there again. Then on the same water line about 700 feet on up it was pinched under a big willow restricting the water flow. Ray, Harold, and Clyde went up there with Jim and his backhoe and cut the line above and below this pinched spot and put in a new line over the problem. (no leaks) There was trouble at the other settling pond, because the over flow pipe was blocked, and the water was flowing out where we have to drive. We took the tractor up and got the out flow opened up and working good. It's all cleaned out and OK now. We also had to rebuild the wood gate while we were there, old age was getting it down.

MORE HATCHERY NEWS

We spawned the Chinook again Tuesday. Paul went up to the salmon trap above Delwood and there were about 65 Chinook there. He got 6 wild Chinook females that were ripe, and some milt from about 20 males. The rest of these salmon were tagged and released up the river. There were 5 survey crew there at the trap that helped Paul get this done. The survey crew is tagging the salmon and counting them, so they can count all the salmon on the spawning grounds marked and unmarked, and get an estimate of the number of adults that spawned this year up the Coos River.

Thanks to the Port of Coos Bay for the pipe they donated for our road culverts, and to Paul for cutting them to length.



The late September rains brought a lot of fish to the hatchery. We donated all of the bright fish that were available. This October 4th work party is mainly the USCG helping remove un-needed fish to put carcasses upstream in tributaries of the Coos. We removed 867 fish and threw back 407 to spawn on October 29th.



The flow from the upper pond has been getting lower each of the past two years. Harold and Clyde found a spot where the 4" pipe was completely grown over with big willows in the last 30 years. After many hours of shovel and chain saw work the crushed pipe is being replaced with a new heavy duty pipe section.



The pond outflow has been blocked off for some time to allow repairs. Now that the new section of pipe has been installed it's time for testing. The stand pipe was removed and the screen installed. The flow at Nora's Pond is about double what it had been before the repairs. **Success!**



October 29th was our first spawning day. We had hoped to have enough females to get 75,000 eggs. These were fish left over from the end of September as we've had very little rain in October. We were able to spawn 80 males and 102 females. This is certainly enough eggs to meet our objective for the first spawning day. Now we need some rain to bring more fish to Noble Creek Hatchery.

With the recent rains another shot of Chinook moved into the hatchery over the past weekend. We have just finished up our second successful day of spawning Chinook at Noble Creek Hatchery. There are very few salmon left in the holding pond but more fish should move into the hatchery with the predicted rain. So far this year we have had over 1,000 adults and over 650 jacks that have come into the hatchery. We will be spawning again on November 12 starting at 9:00 am, so hope to see many of you there. We will also be spawning on November 19 and 26.

The angler creel survey on Coos Bay is still ongoing but things have really started to wind down for this year's fishery. So far this year the Coos Bay salmon anglers have harvested over 7,400 adults. Last year anglers harvested 5,150 Chinook in Coos Bay.

Our Dellwood crew has been trapping Chinook salmon at the Dellwood Fish Trap as they move up the South Fork Coos River to spawn. As of November 3, the crew has trapped and marked 532 adults and 16 jacks. We are marking the Chinook salmon with an opercle (gill plate) punch as they move upstream so we can calculate the spawning population of salmon in South Fork Coos and its tributaries. The crew will continue to trap and mark fish this month until the flow on the South Fork Coos River does not allow safe conditions for trapping fish. Along with trapping and marking fish, the crew has started conducting spawning surveys. They are surveying the South Fork Coos, Tioga Creek, Williams River, and a few smaller tributaries. On these surveys the crew members are looking for the opercle punched fish and they are taking scales on a subsample of fish to be aged later this winter.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife