

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

November 2015

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NOVEMBER 2015

DECEMBER 2015

**Are the months to update
your yearly dues for Coos
River STEP NEWS**

**You can check the year
you are paid for by looking
at the mailing label. After
your name is a number of
the year that is paid for.**

**We appreciate your sup-
port for this news letter.**

**You can also donate some
time here at the hatchery,
especially while we are
spawning these Chinook
salmon, or come out with
your camera and take some
pictures of the many salmon.**

HATEHERY NEWS

Harold with some help has been fixing us a place to hang our new waders and rain pants and jackets, it will also hold most of the used waders also. We will be able to lock this place up for security which will help to keep the honest people honest.

There will be lots of shelf room for the storage of lots of other items.

Our tool room that we have, was getting pretty crowded to work in, this will really help give us back our work space. It was getting hard to find some of the tools that we might need for working on the different projects that we have.

It looks like we will have enough wood in our storage area that is seasoned well, so it will heat our meeting room easily most of this spawning and rearing season. We need a warm room, especially right after we have been out in the cold spawning these salmon.

**THANKS TO ALL THE
VOLUNTEER HELP**

SPAWNNG TIME .AGAIN

We had quite a time getting everything working on our first spawning day. Most everything worked OK except for the 1 1/2 pump that we depend on the most. We tried and tried to get it primed so it would pump for us and it just wouldn't work. It turned out that it was getting air leaks in the suction side so it couldn't possibly work at all. We finally got it fixed and working after some of us got really wet from all the spraying water all over us.

The other two pumps we use worked good with no trouble at all. The big 3 inch aerator pump also had to be put in place and hooked up so it could do it's job for the salmon, it's working good at this time.



On November the third we assembled a small crew to help spawn Chinook at Noble Creek. Bryan and Darin jumped in the water to get wet and play with fish. I think Darin liked playing in the water better than Bryan.



Here is the spawning rack for the females. This was October 27th. The spawning date wasn't planned as Gary was hunting elk in Eastern Oregon. Two inches of rain said lets spawn fish now.



Gary inserted a new twist this year. It seems that hatchery fish have been getting smaller each year. I asked if it was because we spawn earlier than in nature. NO! It seems that we spawn smaller males with bigger females and smaller fish are the result. We will match eggs from large females with large males. Maybe we'll generate large offspring.



Over on the female side we're keeping the eggs separated by the size of the female the eggs were collected from. Big female — gets sperm from a big male. I think that's how it happens in nature. Big fish get together and make more big fish.

As many of you already know I missed the first spawning day at Noble Creek Hatchery this last month because I was elk hunting in northeast Oregon with my brother (who lives out of state). Things looked good for me to be gone since we did not have any significant rain for months. But of course it had to rain (and quite a bit) while I was gone. Thanks to the guys that showed up and spawned the Chinook while I was busy looking for elk. And yes I did get an elk, although my brother did not find anything to fill his tag with.

At the end of October we had well over 1,000 Chinook that made their way into Noble Creek Hatchery. We had a great day spawning on November 3rd but we maybe went through less than a third of the fish. We will be spawning again Saturday, November 7th and again on Tuesday, November 10th. So far we seem to be right on track for the numbers of Chinook eggs we need to have to meet our egg take goal.

Paul Merz and I set the fish trap at Dellwood to attempt to collect some wild Chinook brood stock to be used at Noble Creek Hatchery. A very big group of Chinook moved up the past weekend and are spawning near the fish trap. Paul and I have checked the trap this morning and we caught a few Chinook, along with a few coho, and a chum salmon. We will check the trap again tomorrow morning to see how many more Chinook we can capture and haul back to the hatchery.

Bill Sigler, who has worked seasonally for ODFW, is working as an employee for Coos Watershed Association for the next month conducting coho spawning surveys in the Catching Slough basin. Bill will be collecting spawner numbers and hopefully otoliths from coho carcasses to see if they are from the coho eyed egg injection project. At the end of the salmon spawning season I will send off all the collected otoliths to be sectioned and look for thermal marks.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. NOV. 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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City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Coos River STEP P.O.BOX 5907 CHARLESTON, Oregon 97420

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