

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

October 2013

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SEPT. DONATIONS

Jim Davison
 Won the 50-50 jackpot
 and donated his winnings
 back to STEP.

Jan & Ray	Lee
Philip	Carlson
Charlie	Gross
Gayle	Martin

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

HATCHERY NEWS

Our salmon are starting to return back to the Hatchery this year earlier than they ever have before. We never have had 1000 plus Chinook back to this hatchery in September before. We're speculating what to make of this, and it seems to be anybody's guess if this will change the number of salmon returning this year. We have the 3" pump on to help keep the oxygen safe for the salmon, because the creek water flow is getting less each day. This Friday 4th. Oct. we will go through the salmon and take out any that is not needed for brood stock. This year we were able to donate 344 nice bright salmon to our food bank, because of the early rain that brought them to the hatchery. These salmon probably would not survive until they are ready to spawn, sometime in October, so this is the best use of them.

Harold and Eric, plus some other help, have got the one sand filter all cleaned out. It really was dirty with silt and needed cleaned. Our other sand filter looks to be OK.

COOS WATERSHED & ROSEBURG LUMBER

September 2013 there was some Habitat Improvements done in the Noble Creek Watershed. This work is above the Noble Creek Hatchery, so we have been very interested in the improvements.

There has been culvert removals, fish culvert replacements done. It looks like there will be Riparian Plantings, Wood Placements, and some road Decommissioning that still needs to be done.

The fish friendly culverts are in place, with lots of rock and straw around them to stop any erosion this winter. There's more work to be done on this project.



A work party on September 17th saw Eric Lehouiller helping caulk windows against the coming winter rains. Eric is Harold's friend .



The hatchery is full of salmon on October 1st so we are killing bright fish to donate to the ORCCA Food Bank. Harold has two nice fish on the way to be iced down in Gary Vonderohe's ODFW truck.



The raceway is full of fish but first Eric removes mortos from the trap.



The early heavy rains the last few days of September have brought a rush of salmon to the trap at Noble Creek. There are a few hundred salmon in the raceway and the stream is dropping as the rains have let up. The above aerator pump will help keep fish alive in the lower flows of water until it rains some more.



The October 1st work crew has filled up Gary's truck. He came with the bed and many containers filled with chipped ice. We are sending him away with 125 bright adult Chinook and 63 jacks. He delivered 80 Chinook to ORCCA yesterday for area food banks. I hope they have enough volunteer butchers to fillet all of the salmon we are sending. Another work party is planned for Friday. **Do not waste nice bright Chinook!**

It has been busy at Noble Creek Hatchery over the past week. Last week we had a few hatchery Chinook trickle into the Hatchery. Most of these fish were in pretty good shape so they were donated to the Oregon Coast Community Action (who will then distribute the fish to the food banks throughout the county). Then with all the rain over this past weekend, we had about 1,000 or more Chinook that made their way into the Hatchery. Today we donated 80 bright Chinook and will be donating over 100 additional fish tomorrow. Overall we have donated 44 jacks, 69 females, and 49 males (these do not include the 1000 plus fish waiting to be donated).

It's great that we have the opportunity to donate fish for people that can really use the food. Beside we are at least a month away before these fish would be ready to spawn and there just isn't enough water in the Hatchery to keep all these fish alive until that time.

Speaking of spawning Chinook, we will be spawning fish on the usual Tuesdays starting at the end of October and continuing through November. We are also planning on having a spawning day the first Saturday of November. As usual we will start right around 9:00 AM each spawning day. So this is what the spawning schedule will look like.

Tuesday, October 29

Saturday, November 2

Tuesday, November 5

Tuesday, November 12

Tuesday, November 19

Tuesday, November 26 (if needed)

We may need to add a couple additional spawning days depending on how many and when the salmon return.

Gary Vonderohe

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife