

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

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

October 2014

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### NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

All members and their guests are welcome to attend our monthly potluck and meeting. (second Tue. Each month) Potluck at 6:00, meeting at 7:00. The meeting is held here at the Noble Creek Hatchery.

### MEMBERSHIP

If the number right after your name on the mailing label of your last News Letter is not 14, you need to pay your dues to receive any more news letters from Coos River STEP.

## WORK AT THE HATCHERY

Tuesday October 7th Ray came out and we got the dam boards put in place to create the holding pond for the adults when they come to the hatchery. We also got the aluminum trap moved and ready to lower into place to hold the adults from going back out of the raceway. With the winch that Jim donated, one man can raise or lower this gate when the time comes. I'm sure we have things as ready as we can get them, to hold the salmon for spawning.

Harold has been working on the drain pipes from our hatch boxes to Nora's pond. He has been trying to take care of his family members, and do this hatchbox work all at the same time. He has been one busy man, and doing very well with all that has been going on at home and here at the hatchery.

## HATCHERY NEWS

We have had a few Chinook come up to the hatchery so far this year. The inch and half of rain that we had in mid September got over 100 salmon to come into the hatchery. They were all donated to the Oregon food bank that is close to WalMart. There has been a very few come to the hatchery since then. (no rain). There will be lots more salmon the next time it rains an inch or more. We will hold these next fish for spawning, the dates are in Gary's page of this letter.

The Coos Watershed has all the concrete pieces out of Noble Creek that were used to stabilize the creek banks. The watershed has had the concrete and pilling around this bridge all cleaned up and hauled away. The concrete was replaced with rocks, and some old railroad piling were pulled to get them out of the way. There is still work to be done by the watershed people. They need to replace the fencing and gate that they took out to install this bridge as they had promised to do.



Coos Watershed received a grant to remove the culvert just above the hatchery. It was an undersized culvert which restricted stream flow at high water. A nice big bridge will go in its place.



The stream channel has been dug out and a rock base for the creek has been installed. The big boulders are to protect the base of the abutments for the bridge.



Noble Creek will now have a lot of room for high water events without restricting the stream flow. Concrete footings will be poured on top of the block abutments and the bridge will sit on those. The culvert on the right side of the picture is Ferry Creek entering from the north.



The concrete elements of the bridge are all in place and grout installed to seal between the pieces. Forms are in place for a concrete rail. A 2" x 6" pressure treated wood railing will be installed along each side of the bridge. A gate will also be installed at the far end to keep horses in the pasture. Thank you Coos Watershed for a fine bridge!!!

Salmon fishing continues to be very good in Coos Bay. The Chinook salmon are biting very well in the Coos River, Isthmus Slough, and other upper tidewater sections of the bay. While wild coho fishing has been red hot from the jetties up to California Street Boat Ramp. Just a reminder to anglers that the wild coho season for Coos Bay will be open through November 30 and anglers will be allowed 1 wild coho per day and 2 wild coho per season. Coho fishing has been so good even my wife decided to get a fishing license and catch a coho (which we did in 30 minutes).

Many Chinook salmon returned to Noble Creek hatchery with the shot of much needed rain the Coos Bay area received in September. These fish were in good shape and many were still very bright fish with little to no chance of surviving in the raceway until the end of October. Because of this we donated over 100 Chinook in two days to a couple of the local food banks in the Coos Bay area.

Speaking of Chinook, it's time to start thinking of spawning days at Noble Creek Hatchery. Here is the proposed spawning schedule for Noble Creek:

Tuesday, October 28  
Tuesday, November 4  
Saturday, November 8  
Thursday, November 13  
Tuesday, November 18  
Tuesday, November 25

The spawning schedule is dependent on rain and Chinook returning to the hatchery. There are lots of fish in the bay so there should be plenty of fish to spawn. We will need lots of help especially during the first 4 spawning days.

Finally, over the summer I have been working on a report for the 5 year Coos fall Chinook Monitoring and Evaluation project that we just finished up this past fall. One of the many things that I have been looking at for the Coos fall Chinook hatchery program is how well our fish contribute to the ocean fisheries and where are those fish being caught. I use recoveries of the Coded Wire Tagged fish in the ocean sport and commercial fisheries which are all summarized in a regional database that I can access on the internet. Below is a graph of where the Coos Basin hatchery fall Chinook have been caught in the ocean over the past 5 years.

No room for the graph, but here are the percentages of catch for the Chinook salmon.  
California 1%, Oregon 7%, Washington 22%, Canada 37%, Alaska 33%.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Charleston Field Office  
Phone 541-888-5515

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. Oct. 14th  
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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**JOIN STEP!**

You can **SUPPORT** Coos River STEP Association and receive this news letter for only \$15.00 per Family! (Tax deductible!)

See order form at left E-mail news items or questions about Coos River STEP to

**WEB SITE**  
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**Coos River S.T.E.P.**

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