

Coos River S.T.E.P. News

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

September 2013

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NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

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NEW MEMBER

David (Burley) Young

This new member has paid dues with Coos River STEP for all the year 2014

All dues can be paid for the year 2014 between Sept. 2013 and Jan 2014.

This makes it easier for our treasurer to keep a record of all the paid members, who we mail a News Letter to each month. **THANKS**

HATCHERY NEWS

First there has been a Jack Chinook back this year to the hatchery, and donated to a food bank. This happened before I got the blocking gate in place, so the salmon don't go right on up the creek. I'm not real sure, but it looks like there may have been one salmon or two get by before the blocking gate was put in place.

The Coos Watershed is going to be planting some trees along Noble Creek soon, as they already have some of the places cleared and ready up along the creek.

Roseburg Timber Co. has moved an excavator in already to upgrade some of the culverts to fish friendly.

They also plan to decommission some of their roads.

I have a map of most of the plans of what they are going to do. Some of this work should start Thursday 5th of September.

Maybe all this work on the road, and in the water will be good for the COHO salmon that live and reproduce in Noble Creek.

THE PICNIC AT THE HATCHERY

Our August picnic, and show and tell at the Hatchery was very successful. We had 40 or more Volunteers and guests attending. There was lots of food and deserts for everyone. A good time visiting, and looking around the hatchery, instead of a membership meeting.

We may do this kind of picnic each year, as it was a very interesting and pleasant time had by everyone present. Also we didn't have to spend a lot of time making the preparations for it. If you would like to comment on this idea come to the Coos River STEP September 10th membership, potluck, meeting, and help us discuss this possibility.



One of the main reasons Jan and I went back to Montana was to walk the gravel bars of the Yellowstone River looking for agates, petrified wood and jasper. A friend loaned us a pair of hiking staffs so Jan could be more secure walking on the gravel. They worked well for several forays on gravel bars.



Jan was busy looking for agates but I like to flyfish. I fished grasshopper imitations and had several strikes but no fish hooked. I switched to a large black and white streamer and caught this nice brown trout. I didn't have a tape measure but estimated it at about 17" in length. The width of the folding belt net is 12" to give some perspective.



Dan Murray, a very good rancher friend of ours in Big Timber, MT, invited us to lunch at the historic Grand Hotel in Big Timber. We enjoyed lunch then went back to his spread about fifteen miles north of town. His house is about in the middle of the nine sections of his ranch so his ranch extended about as far as we could see in all directions.



Our Park City, Utah friends joined us in Montana and traveled with us to visit Glacier National Park. We stayed at West Glacier and drove in and around the park. This view is the Going to the Sun highway east of Logan Pass. It's hard to believe the workers in the mid 1930's could remove sheer rock cliffs to make room for miles and miles of this beautiful highway. The stone railings are spectacular.

I was getting ready to leave on vacation last month and I made a mistake sending Clyde the wrong file for the newsletter. I guess I was thinking about catching the plane to fly back and see my family rather than concentrating on what I attached to my email. Anyways here is the article that I meant to have in last month's newsletter (with a couple modifications).

The ODFW's Restoration & Enhancement Board this past spring funded our final year of the Coos Basin fall Chinook Monitoring and Evaluation (angler creel surveys and spawning surveys). Our angler creel surveys began the middle of last month, so this means I've been scrambling around a little bit to make sure everything is up and running for our sampler to start. Our samplers use a handheld data logger to enter the angler's information. We have been using these data loggers for over 4 years now and a great thing about them is that at the end of the day the sampler plugs the data logger into the computer and everything is transferred into a file. No extra data entry. We will have samplers checking what anglers are catching from mid-August into November.

Our boat that we use for estuary seining was in the shop for about a month, so I had to skip a couple seining trips on Coos Bay and the lower Coquille River. We got the boat back from the shop in early August and I had made two seining trips on Coos Bay since then. We have netted quite a few juvenile Chinook (both non-clipped and fin clipped). On my last seining trip we had our seine full of surf smelt and young-of-year herring. Some of my co-workers noticed the herring had a big spawn this past winter/spring, so it was good to see lots of them survive.

At the end of July, I met with some of our ODFW staff from the Portland area. These guys work in the Fish ID/fish marking part of our Department. They were down in the Coos Bay area to evaluate if the Automatic Fin Clipping Trailer could be used at the Coos Bay STEP hatcheries. The good news is it looks like the trailer will be coming down to the area this next spring to be used at Noble Creek, Morgan Creek, and Bandon hatcheries. The way the trailer works as I understand it is: fish are placed in a hopper and then they volitionally move into little channels/tubes that take them to the part of the machine to be clipped. It will only let one fish in at a time. Once the fish gets to the area to be clipped, it is gently held in place while a camera takes a picture of the area near the adipose fin. A computer runs a bunch of calculations to figure out the position of the adipose fin on an X & Y axis. Once the position of the adipose is calculated, the machine cuts off the adipose with scissors like motion. The computer takes another picture to make sure that the adipose fin has been completely cut off. If it's not completely cut off the computer will repeat the process. Once the fin is completely cut off that fish swims off and the next fish is ready to fin clip. The trailers have 5-6 stations (depending on the size of the trailer) to clip fins. The trailer supervisor thought it would take 2 weeks for the trailer to fin clip 100% of the juvenile Chinook at Noble Creek.

Gary Vonderohe
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife