

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

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

September 2015

## Directors

### PRESIDENT

Clyde Haga 267-3563

### VICE PRESIDENT

Harold Brown 756-6958

### 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

Bob Fleming 290-7828

Paul Merz 888-4425

Harold Brown 756-6955

Lee Hockema 290-8666

Vickie Fleming 290-7828

Marla O'Neill 267-7874

Dorothy Haga 267-3563

### NEWSLETTER

Ray Lee 267-4176

Clyde Haga 267-3563

## NEW MEMBER

Richard Sebesta

Coos River STEP THANKS  
Richard for his support and  
interest in the Noble Creek  
Hatchery.

The baby salmon that Coos  
River raises are all out of the  
Hatchery, and in Isthmus  
slough, or already farther  
down in the Bay on their way  
to the ocean. There was about  
540,000 of them this year that  
the counter counted, as they  
were marked. All of these fish  
had their adipose fin removed  
so they could be identified as  
hatchery fish.

## HATCHERY NEWS

Here at the Hatchery this  
month there has been very  
little work that we were  
ready to do. It looks like  
things are going to get busy  
with the projects that are  
planned for this month. This  
last week we worked putting  
up the scaffolding to work  
off of so we could clean the  
moss off the roof. Harold  
fixed the rain gutters and  
down spouts too.

We will be getting the hold-  
ing ponds ready soon, as we  
could have some salmon at  
the hatchery next month.  
There is some salmon at the  
tide gates early in September  
every year, and a few will  
swim on upstream to the  
hatchery if there is enough  
rain to increase the water  
flow in the creek. We'll just  
watch and put the blocking  
gates in place when it looks  
like it will be needed to hold  
any salmon that come. Some  
years we have had a few  
hundred salmon come to the  
hatchery in September.  
When this happens we try to  
get some of them donated to  
the food bank.

## COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON

The water in this river, this year is so warm that it is estimated that up to 80% of the returning Sockeye Salmon could die from being stressed. Fish congregating in confined areas trying to find cool water makes them a target for pathogens. The fish become stressed at temperatures above 68 degrees and stop migrating at 74 degrees. Much of the Columbia river is at or over 70 degrees due to a combination of drought and record heat in June.

Thirteen species of salmon and steelhead are listed as endangered or threatened in the Columbia river basin. These salmon are going to be few that survive to spawn. Since the Columbia is Oregon's largest producer of salmon, fishing for them looks to be very minimal at best in 3 to 5 years.



The old roof over the kitchen and meeting area has been on the hatchery for over 20 years. It's about time for it to be covered by a new metal roofing. A fine work crew some how always shows up when we call for a work party.



The main crew running the screw guns are Don Yost, Rod Malcomb and Paul Merz. We struggled to keep the battery's charged so they could keep screwing down the 13'6" pieces of steel roofing. Somehow the battery chargers kept up so we didn't slow down the crew.



Rod tried to cut the steel roofing with tin snips. What a hassle. I went to ask Paul Merz if he had the electric nippers to cut the roof material. No, but he had an electric angle grinder in his truck that would cut right through the steel. Much easier than tin snips.



The two main helpers for this roofing project are Don Yost and Rod Malcomb. They're contractors in day to day life but agreed to donate their time and help install the new roof over the meeting room. Thanks, Don and Rod. We appreciate your help.

## Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

The weather in the past month finally cleared up enough that I got to go out seining for juvenile Chinook a couple of times. We did not catch lots of Chinook but the ones we did capture looked very healthy. We have also netted lots of juvenile flat fish (English sole and speckled sand dabs) along with some large surf smelt and a few very large pile surfperch. I plan on seining at least a couple more times in Coos Bay before the end of the summer.

A few Chinook have already been caught in Coos Bay in late July. Most of the fish I heard of were caught in between the jetties. But a couple weekends ago I did witness a Chinook being landed near the chip pile while I was trolling for a salmon (and no I was not the fortunate person to catch the fish). It won't be long and the boat ramps will be full of anglers looking to catch a few salmon in Coos Bay.

For the first time in Oregon history ODFW has implemented a 2 p.m. fishing closure on most rivers and streams (excluding tidewater sections) for anglers fishing for trout, salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon. This is due to the extremely low flows and warm water temperatures we are seeing around the state. There are a few rivers or river sections that remained open to fishing for trout, salmon, and steelhead like normal because they have cooler flows from springs or from water releases from reservoirs. This closure doesn't affect anyone that still wants to fish for smallmouth bass in the Coquille or Umpqua basins.

This summer's low flows and hot water temperatures have been taking a toll on some salmon and steelhead around the state. I know several fishermen that spotted dead spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead floating downstream in the Umpqua River while they were fishing for smallmouth bass. I've also heard of dead salmon in the Willamette River tributaries and on the Middle Fork of the John Day. Hopefully we will get some significant rain soon.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Ph. 541-888-5515

**POTLUCK 6:00 PM MEETING 7:00 TUE. AUG. 11th  
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**  
**Noblecreekfish.net**

**E-MAIL**  
**cehaga@charter.net**

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

**P.O.Box 5907  
Charleston, Oregon 97420**

