

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

P.O Box 5907 Charleston, Oregon 97420

July 2010

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### NEWSLETTER

Clyde Haga 267-3563



## Garage Sale 2010

Thanks to everyone who donated, or came & bought, the sale was a great success. We made over \$3,000 & that's what keeps the hatchery going. We missed Sandy G. as she was our main sales person last year. We had a good turnout of great help. What didn't sell was donated to Hospice & an organ organization that helps homeless people.

**Thanks again**

## Hatchery News

We still have some improvement work to do on our water supply, and cleanup to do this year at the hatchery, we will probably get started next month. Al & Sue and Dave & Sandy are moving too far away to be able to help at the hatchery regularly and will really be missed. Good help is hard to find.

## ODFW Report

It's the summer field season for ODFW fish biologist around the state. That means lots of time on our rivers and streams sampling fish or working on habitat projects. Jen Feola, our Fish Habitat Biologist, is working on six habitat projects in the Coos and Coquille watersheds placing large wood in streams to collect spawning gravels and create deeper pools for over-winter habitat. The trees will be placed with either a cable yarder or by helicopter. These projects will be on sections of Elk Creek (East Fork Coquille River), Moon Creek, North Fork Coquille River, Marlow Creek, West Fork Millicoma River, and East Fork Millicoma River. Partners on these projects are Coos Watershed, Coquille Watershed, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Plum Creek Timber, Menasha Corp., BLM, and the Coquille Tribe.

I have been seining on the lower Coos and Coquille estuaries and have been seeing lots of Chinook in both estuaries.

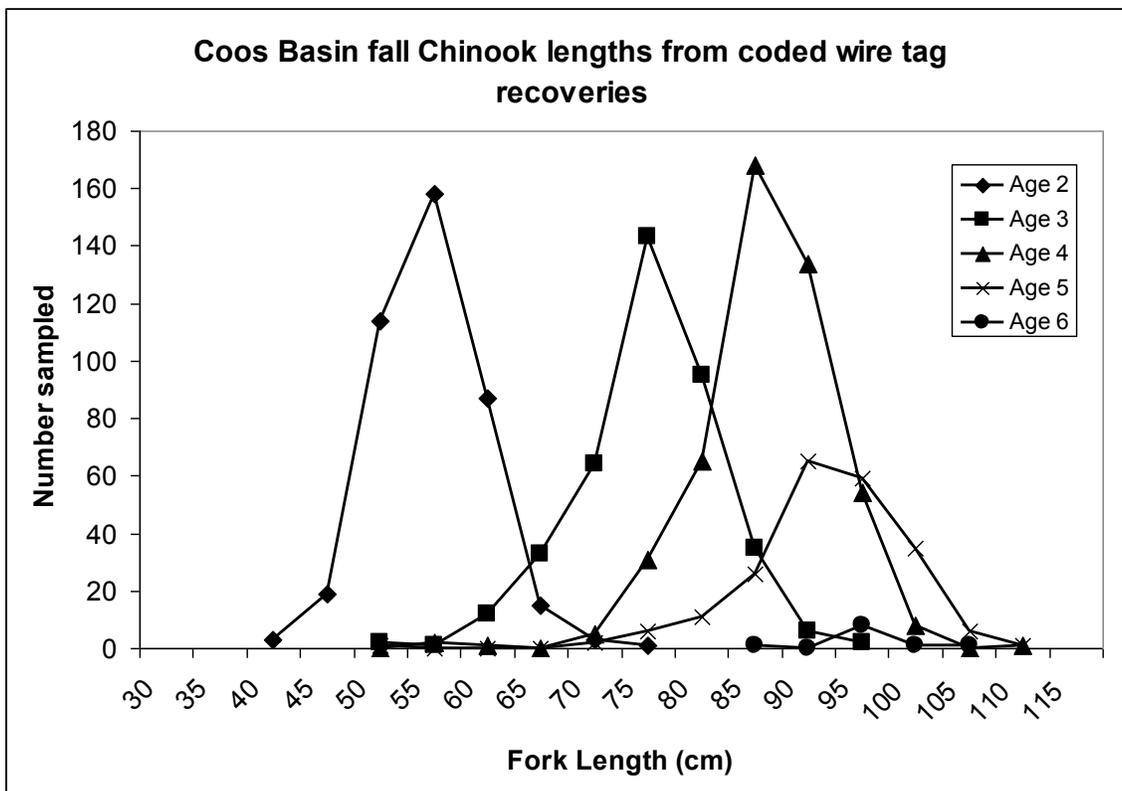
The Chinook in the Coos estuary are looking very healthy. I even sampled an unmarked Chinook smolt that was just shy of six inches long.

We just finished three days of sampling for juvenile steelhead and cutthroat trout in and around our hatchery steelhead acclimation sites in the Coos and Coquille basins. We found good numbers of cutthroat trout and steelhead juveniles. Some of the steelhead juveniles were hatchery steelhead smolts from this year that haven't migrated to the ocean yet.

I have also been chipping away at some of the data in our office. Lately I have been working on the coded wire tag recovery data from fall Chinook snouts recovered at Noble Creek and Morgan Creek hatcheries in the last six years. With recoveries of coded wire tags we can find out if these fish are being harvested in the ocean, in river sport fisheries, or return back to the hatcheries. Snouts are cut off of returning Chinook with coded wire tags. These snouts are sent to a lab that dig out the very small tags and read the tag code under a microscope. These tags codes are then entered into a database. At this point I can look at the data and match it up with the data that we collect at the hatcheries in the fall. With this data I can look back at where each fish was released and during what year.

The majority of the Chinook returning to the Morgan Creek and Noble Creek hatcheries were released at these facilities but a few of the coded wire tag Chinook have come from out of the Coos Basin. In the last six years we have had a couple coded wire tag Chinook from Sevenmile Creek (in the Coquille Basin) and a couple of coded wire tag Chinook from the Umpqua River (Gardiner STEP releases) return to hatcheries in the Coos Basin.

Using this data I have also looked at the lengths of the Chinook at different ages. The graph below shows the lengths of age 2- age 6 Chinook returning to Noble Creek and Morgan Creek hatcheries. As you can see there is some overlap of lengths between different age groups.



As always if you have any questions stop by our office in Charleston or give us a call at (541)888-5515.

Gary Vonderohe  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

## **Annual S.T.E.P Picnic**

**Please mark your calendar and join us for the 4th annual south coast S.T.E.P. barbecue to be held on Saturday, the 28th of August, 2010 at Tugman State Park in Lakeside. Festivities will begin at 12:00pm.**

**This years host will be Florence S.T.E.P. They will provide, hamburgers, drinks, plates and utensils and everyone is asked to bring a Potluck side dish, salad or dessert to share.**

**S.T.E.P volunteers from Florence to Brookings will be attending this growing Fun Day event which gives all our volunteers a chance to get to know each other and share ideas. We'll have a great day to kick back and celebrate all the hard work our volunteers and ODFW do over the year through education, enhancement and restoration work. Roy Elicker Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Staff will be in attendance.**

**In addition Todd Jones a Salmon Trout Advisory Committee representative from Astoria will be giving a presentation on Hatchery Systems and Dean Hendricks of North Country Lures and Flies will give a presentation on Fishing for Coho in our Lakes.**

**A drawing will be held with lots of great items that have been donated. All proceeds will go to this years host, Florence S.T.E.P .**

**Each year a different South Coast STEP group will host the annual event and will receive the proceeds for that year's drawing.**

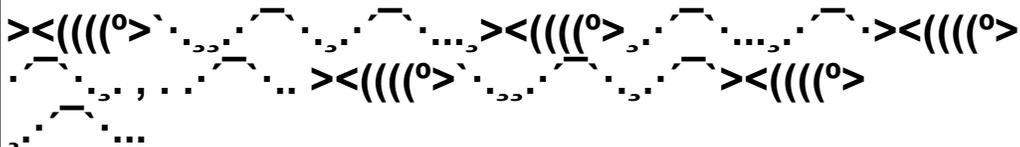
**Hope to see you all there.**

**Armand Pena**

**Salmon Trout Advisory Committee**

**Tenmile, Coos and Coquille District**

**Armand & Valerie Pena**



**POTLUCK 6:00 MEETING 7:00 TUE. JULY 13th, 2010**  
**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 January to January**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**JOIN STEP!**

You can **SUPPORT** **Coos River STEP Association** and receive this news letter for only \$15 annual dues. (Tax deductible!)

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

[clyde@noblecreekfish.net](mailto:clyde@noblecreekfish.net)

