

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS



Siletz Middle School students visiting the Siletz Tribal hatchery on Siletz River Day in April include (l to r) Sean Feller, Lacey Lyons, Joey Garcia, Jamie Mason, Michelle Diehl, and Tony Johnson.



Stan van de Wetering shows baby coho to visiting students from Siletz School.



John Bergquist (l) and Stan van de Wetering move a fish pen filled with baby coho.

Llukee Illahee Hatchery Supports Baby Coho

by Stan van de Wetering

Three years ago this summer, Tom Downey secured grant dollars to restore the old hatchery pond on Rock Creek. Since then, we have been applying for grant dollars through tribal, state, and federal governments. These grants have been directed at three basic needs.

The first is to create a water source and sewage facility for a camp host who can act as a watch-person for the hatchery. The second is to build a chain-link fence to curb the vandalism that occurs regularly. The third is to restore the basics of one of the two dilapidated buildings – electrical, windows, roof, doors, and drywall.

We recently met with success through tribal funding. We received a \$3,000 grant to work on sewage and water and a \$5,000 grant to work on fencing. We have used funds from other non-hatchery grants to create a small laboratory setting that allows us to perform basic experiments examining fish survival relative to water temperature and sediment pollution.

The state of Oregon has a management objective of providing 50,000 coho smolts a year to the tribe. We would like to raise these fish ourselves at our own hatchery but we haven't yet developed the ability to do this. A second project we hope to run through the hatchery is a fry release program where we utilize wild broodstock

from the Siletz Basin. These fish would be spawned at Llukee Illahee, the eggs incubated, and fry released into local streams where we have little or no salmon.

This year we performed a "dry run" with the incubation facility we built last year. So far, everything has gone well. The baby coho (20,000) are very healthy and are living solely on natural food sources – bugs. These fry will not be released this summer but will be held until they smolt next spring and then released. This year's fish represent a small experiment to determine how many fish we can raise in a natural setting without manmade food. If we get a good fish survival rate this year, we likely will expand to other ponds next year.

We will continue to use small amounts of money from other grants to keep our hatchery laboratory operating. We also will continue to apply for funds to complete the hatchery restoration and employ a full-time hatchery technician.

Frank Simmons has done a wonderful job of keeping the hatchery site well groomed, which makes it a pleasant place to visit. The maintenance crew also does a good job of mowing every spring, which keeps the pasture grass down.

We welcome your visit to Llukee Illahee. Stop by and watch your fish or enjoy the creek and its surroundings.

Water News

by Stan van de Wetering

This quarter, we are introducing what should be seasonal articles describing various projects and proposals involving tribal water resources staff. Our articles usually will cover a single completed project in detail and provide short updates on other ongoing projects. Articles will cover work done by tribal members, community members, and others involved with water resources.

Project Eel Life Histories

This issue's topic has to do with eels. Tribal members recognize two kinds of adult eels in our rivers – day and night eels. As you know, night eels are the ones selected for harvest. Because eel numbers have dropped so dramatically during the last 20 years, we became interested in learning more about the eel's different life phases. Our project goal was to determine how old, what sex, how many, and when baby eels were migrating to the ocean.

For two years, we trapped fish that were migrating downstream during all seasons of the year. The trap was shaped like a large cone and faced upstream, capturing fish as they swam downstream.

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