

Survey indicates creek good salmon habitat

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Rhododendron's Meadow Creek is believed to be a good habitat for coho salmon, according to a recent survey of the stream by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Jay Massey, a fish biologist assigned to Clackamas County, included a survey of the stream in a recent visit to the area.

Meadow Creek, sometimes referred to on old maps as Meadowbrook Creek, is a mere one mile long and a tributary of Henry Creek.

The stream meanders through a wetland area

known as Rhododendron Meadows and is fed by a number of springs.

During the summer months the upper regions of the stream draw on underground springs, keeping the water flowing in the lower three-quarters. Two of which emerge from beneath two large alders.

SUHS art show set

A student art show will be held today and tomorrow in the Sandy Union High School gymnasium in conjunction with Springfest.

The show will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. today

Residents living near the stream claim that it has resident trout as well as both steelhead and coho salmon. The steelhead and coho return to spawn in its waters each year.

Massey said the stream appears to be able to support additional fish and could return to its earlier

role as an important stream with a little work. He said that further studies will be conducted on the creek and it could be included in the department's

Salmon, Trout Enhancement Program.

In some areas brush and salmon berries have overgrown the banks. Massey said this vegeta-

tion provides a number of benefits for the fish.

Overhanging brush keeps the water cool during warm weather.

In periods of heavy

runoff, the vegetation helps to stabilize the bank and prevent erosion.

Also, the brush serves as a way for fish to acquire food as bugs will drop off

the branches into the water.

Though the thick brush is beneficial for fish, Massey said that it can pose problems for fishermen.




Staff photo

SUHS senior Don Roessel works on a sketch for display at the high school art show today and Friday.

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