



NEWS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 16

SEPT.- OCT. 2008 Issue

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday Oct 16th at 7p.m. at the Oak Tree in Woodland.

The program is going to be great with **Gary Loomis presenting his seminar that has spurred over 20,000 sportsmen in the Pacific Northwest to energize and organize to save endangered salmon. Plus news that could help both your and Fish First's finances**

Other Fish First Meeting Dates

November 20, 2008
December 18, 2008
January 15, 2009
February 19, 2009
March 19, 2009
April 16, 2009
May 21, 2009

**On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org
New videos of Fish First work on the East Fork of the Lewis are now up and available for viewing.**

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646
Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836
Jerry Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559

MORE NUTRIENTS NEEDED



Gary Loomis

The next frontier in restoration of the fish runs in the Lewis river basin has got to be more nutrients in the streams, lots more nutrients. If we have learned anything from our success on Cedar Creek it is the importance of adequate nutrients. We know that no other stream has the high egg to smolt ratio we have on Cedar Creek. It's due to the heavy nutrient placement from hatchery donated carcasses placed by Fish First Volunteers. More smolt are important because more fish raised and going downstream equals more fish coming back. The great Fish First stream restoration projects you will read about in this issue provide places for spawning and rearing and we get hundreds of thousands of eggs to hatch in our remote site incubators but once hatched they've got to grow to be smolts and be ready to go downstream. Adequate nutrients are absolutely necessary to that growth. The only way now to increase nutrients is to put dead carcasses back in the river. FF has been doing that for years but the supply of carcasses is dependent on the hatcheries within the drainage and our supply has been dwindling in the past three years (continued on page 2)

Gary continued:

It's not legal to bring carcasses from other drainages because of the danger of spreading disease. So how can an adequate supply of nutrients be made available? The answer may be analogs which are made from a large variety of fish and are sterilized, made into briquettes and can be put into streams any time of year.

Analog can be made of Shad, dead fish from hatchery ponds and fish from Federal Hatcheries such as Tule Chinook which is a low quality food fish once it enters fresh waters. FF is beginning to look into the possibilities including where analogs are processed or if a processing plant is needed and how we can obtain a sufficiently large and reliable supply plus what regulations to we have to meet to use Analog in the Lewis system.



EFLewis River Ridge showing finished J-hook areas

PROJECT WRAP UP FOR 2008

By Dick Dyrland



EF Lewis Ridge Project. Creating better habitat

FF had the busiest project season every with four projects completed including the largest we've done at Lewis Ridge on the EFL. Here is the rundown:

1. Lewis River Ridge 1400 ft. of main channel restoration featuring six wood and rock J-hooks, 6 pools and one rock-only J-hook, 1300 ft of bank benching with rock and creation of a side channel.

2. Manly Road Ck where FF filled in an old leaky pond and created 700 ft. of new spring-fed channel for rearing and spawning

USDS and FF Cooperative Project on Upper EFL. About 700 ft. at the headwaters of the EFL that involved installing three large cross weirs to hold over 120 yards of new spawning gravel, creation of 3 three major holding pools and adding numerous root wads for pool and bank cover.

4. NFL Doty-Edwards Project. About 1300 ft. of Cedar Ck. Channel restoration for Chinook Salmon just above the original Bill Doty project. FF put in three cross-vanes to hold spawning gravel, 3 pools, 20 plus root wad complexes, 60 cubic yards of spawning gravel and planted cedar trees.

The planned Willie Culvert Project on Stavle Ck. NFL was delayed until next project season as we were at project capacity with the above projects.

NUTRIENT MEETING

By John DiVittorio



John Weinheimer (WDFW) hosted the annual nutrient enhancement kickoff meeting on September 24. There was a large group in attendance from WDFW, the hatcheries, Pacificorp, Fish First, the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG), the Kalama Sportsman's Club, the Clark-Skamania Fly Fishers, and others. The purpose of the meeting was to plan for the 2008-9 season.

A quick review of last season indicated smooth operations for the most part. The LCFEG had some issues with landowners finding carcasses on their property. After spending time educating the landowners on nutrient enhancement, many were converted to volunteers in the program.

There was quite a long discussion on the topic of getting more of the returning fish into the nutrient enhancement program. John agreed to convene another meeting to explore this idea further and come up with a strategy to make it happen.

Nello Picinich (LCFEG) notified the group that they have an ALEA grant for nutrient enhancement and can pay mileage for nutrient enhancement projects. The current forecast for carcasses from the Lewis River Hatchery is 11,364. Of that number, 3200 will be used by the USFS above the dams. The rest will be split 50/50 between the East Fork and the North Fork.

KAREN DODDS ACCEPTS TREASURER POST



Karen replaces Dick Doi who resigned recently to be able to care for family members. Karen did a great job with the 2008 Banquet and has stepped up again to keep track of our finances. She will report to the FF Board.

NET PENS AND NUTRIENTS BY DAN BALCH



Very little net pen activity just now but Jerry Sauer and I found four cedar logs to create a log boom at the Echo pens to help keep debris out. Jerry hauled them to my place where I drilled holes for attachment and they will be ready to go when the water comes up enough to float the logs off a trailer at the golf course launch. A work day will be needed soon to help clean pens, pull grass out and put roofing paper on the decks. I've been hauling hay to the habitat projects and have delivered over 250 bales so far.

Nutrients: Both freezers are now up and running and we have just under 800 frozen carcasses. On Oct 1st I hauled 92 fish to Houghton Ck and Johnson Ck. egg box sites. On Oct. 8th Ed Wickersham hauled 800 plus fish carcasses to the

EFL and distributed them. On Oct. 8th and 9th Al Fulcer and Dennis put 100 carcasses at Dan Dupree's, 100 carcasses at the Pup Ck. and Cedar Ck. bridge and 250 fish at the Wright Rd. bridge. About Oct 17th we'll be getting about 300 spawners carcasses from the Speelyai Hatchery.

Bank of Clark County Offer

We wanted to call your attention to the fact the Bank, which has been a donor to FF, has a program that can help FF even more. If you get this newsletter by email see the attachment that came with the letter for details. For those receiving this in print, if you start a Certificate of Deposit with a minimum amount the Bank will give Fish First one half percent of the amount of the deposit as a donation. You get your funds in a safe harbor, as they say, and FF gets needed donations. Call the bank for details and mention Fish First please.

**Fish First
PO Box 1505
Woodland WA 98674**

Board Positions Open

The Fish First Board of Directors currently has an opening for the Executive Director Position. If you are a member with some administrative or business experience and have the time FF needs your talent and time. A retired person would be ideal because the job, no kidding, takes a lot of time. FF has restructured the Board so that two Vice President positions have been created that report to the Executive Director. Other program managers report to those vice presidents. Any member with an interest may apply. Call John DiVittorio 360-713-7460 for details.

Project Manager Position

Fish First also needs a person with Project Management experience. This position requires a significant amount of time in the summer when the habitat projects are done and less time the rest of the year. Interested? Call John DiVittorio 360-713-7460 for details.

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