



NEWS

MEETING MAR. 19th at Oak Tree in Woodland 7 p.m.

MARCH 2009 Issue

In this issue:

<i>Gary's Column</i>	<i>page 1</i>
<i>Dan on Net Pens</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Lewis Ridge Update</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Banquet May 2</i>	<i>page 3</i>



Gary Loomis
"The Fight is On"

Washington Sportsmen who fought hard to get a WDFW Commission that would give a fair break to Salmon are in danger of losing their recently won victory. The culprits are many but at the head are a few legislators and a lobbyist who are toadies for the commercial fishing interests.

The commercials were terrified and outraged when CCA and others succeeded in getting a majority of appointed Commission members who would put an emphasis on saving the salmon and ending overharvest thus at least partially ending the absolute dominance commercial fishermen have had over the sportsmen and the welfare of the salmon for 100 years in Washington State.

The vehicle for the take back attempt is Senate Bill 5127 which would reduce the Commission from 9 to 5 and would provide legislative oversight to the Commission through a small group of legislators who, of course, will be beholden to commercial fishing interests. In short it puts Commercials in control again.

The lobbyist who deserves our contempt and outrage is Ed Owens who has a spectacular conflict of interest in that he is a lobbyist for the seiners and gill netters but also for hunting oriented organizations. Owen's

(Gary's column continued)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday March 19th 7 p.m. at The Oak Tree Restaurant in Woodland.

Jerry Brown, local fishing guide will present a program

Other Fish First Meeting Dates

April 16, 2009
May 21, 2009

On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org

UPCOMING SPEAKERS FOR MEMBERSHIP MTGS.

March 19th: Jerry Brown Fishing Guide

April 16th: Frank Shrier Pacific Corp on fish passage

May 21st: Brad James WDFW on Columbia Sturgeon

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

particular treachery was to tell the legislature he had 57,000 votes that wanted SB5127 passed. This after CCA and its members had lobbied vigorously against it. Among Owen's claimed 57,000 votes are the various sporting organizations he represents as a lobbyist. It is unbelievable that members of these organizations do not also fish and would oppose 5127 if they knew what it did. Their own lobbyist is using them badly. CCA is getting out the word on this treachery to those sporting organizations and is continuing to fight.

If this bill gets through it contains a provision saying it may not be voted on by citizen initiative. I know how I react to that kind of law and hope you have the same very negative reaction when Legislators try to stifle your right of initiative or referendum. They are saying

UPDATE: LEWIS RIVER RIDGE PROJECT

"Project Not a Failure:" Dyrland

Columbian Paper Gets it Wrong.

Fish First's integrity was unfairly and maliciously attacked by both the Columbian Newspaper and Permitting Agencies in the wake of a blow-out of part of the multipurpose Lewis River Ridge project from floods in November and January.

"The stream-full bank portion of the project did its job and protected the cliff from erosion under heavy flood conditions," Dick Dyrland stated. Dyrland is the head of the FF Stream Team that designed the project. "Ironically the debris that came down settled along the stream-full bank we created in a way that moved the river from heading into the cliff to running parallel to it" he noted. Property owners have been quoted as saying they are quite happy with the results of the project.

Dyrland noted the project was multi-purpose and designed to reduce severe stream bank erosion, add fish habitat and protect homes and property above from further damage due to eroding stream bank at the base of the cliff. The original project design proposed altering the river above what turned out to be the more limited project site. FF had identified an old overflow channel that could be eroded out if floods occurred. NOAA Fisheries, the primary permitting agency refused to permit alterations above the cliff site despite extensive scientific documentation, data, analysis and a proposed alternative that offered a complete and responsible restoration.

you don't count and shutting you out from any voice in a public resource.

Your voice is more important than ever and you must continue to write to not only your own Senator and House Members but any and every other Legislator to oppose 5127. CCA is sending out alerts and is providing templates for your letters and emails. If you are not getting these Action Alerts call the CCA Washington Office and give them your email address again 360-694-4300.

You can monitor progress of the bill on your computer by Googling: SB5127 WA Legislature

"The project team scientists from FF made NOAA aware that a small overflow channel a short way above the cliff portion posed a serious risk to the success of the project if treatment of the upstream section of channel was not included in the permit" Dyrland said.

Nonetheless FF went ahead with the project due to the very real threat of collapse of the cliff and damage to homes above it as well as damage to the river habitat should the project not be done and floods occur. Contractors had been arranged for and equipment and operators were committed to agreements and contracts. Waiting another year would have made the project even more expensive and difficult.

Even though the cliff and the property above were saved by the project and not all habitat improvement was lost, the Columbian Newspaper insisted the whole of the cost of the project had been wasted by Fish First. NOAA totally disavowed any responsibility by its failure to permit the project as originally designed.

What's Next? FF, the Stream Team and Property Owners are studying means to remedy the impact of the sediment from the eroded out stream overflow channel with the objective to prevent future occurrences of damage to the project in this reach of the river and to try to restore proper functioning.
(continued next page)

They are gathering data at the site, photographing the changing conditions and documenting their findings with the intention of developing a plan and obtaining permits necessary to effectively restore the project. (Richard Dyrland is Supervisory Hydrologist, Fish First Stream Team Leader. He is retired from a career with the US Forest Service as a Hydrologist.)

BANQUET NEWS FROM FF
Get Ready for May 2nd
By Cindy Moss

The banquet committee is on the move, collecting donations and planning the fundraising night. Members will soon be getting information on dinner tickets.

We appreciate the people who have donated, and gone after donations. Everybody's help is needed for this to be a success. Wine can be donated for the wine barrel again this year. Do you know someone who will donate? Does anyone know where we can find a puppy to auction off? Think outside of the box, do you have a hobby? Could something be donated from your work or collecting in that hobby?

Please feel free to contact me, Cindy Moss (360) 225-8476, anytime, for ideas, or to pick up donations.

There have been a few donors unable to help this year, so given the economy, Fish First members are going to have to work together for donations. The committee always welcomes your input, so if you want to help, please join us. Call the same number to volunteer. Let's have another great year for fish.

SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE SOLD
COUPONS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES WILL EXPIRE

A number of Fish First Members have reported that Sportsman's Warehouse in Vancouver is one of several SW stores in the Northwest that has been sold to a Canadian Firm. They have also been told that coupons and gift certificates will be honored only through the end of March. However a report on Oregon.Live states the Canadian firm UFA has said it will not honor the gift cards. No mention in the article about discount coupons such as FF News has included. In view of the news we will discontinue publishing the coupon. According to the article The store's previous owners retained their Medford, Oregon store and say they will honor gift certificates there including phone-in purchases

NET PENS AND NUTRIENTS
DAN BALCH
Net Pen Chairman



Echo Net Pens

On March 7th we turned 75,000 Spring Chinook loose at the Echo Net Pens, washed down the dirty nets and put them back in pens 1 to 6. We left Pen 7 out to dry to haul to Gary Loomis' place later. Members present were Floyd Michels, Mike Larocco, Jack Kaeding, Dan Brown, Leon Stevenson, Walter and Josh Stokman, Greg Glass, Roy Pickner, Bob Schneider, Joey Stewart, J.R. Hunter, Brian Moen, Damon Holland and Chance, Steven and Dan Balch. The release and cleaning took about two and a half hours.

Speelyai Net Pens

March 10th we pushed the net pens at Speelyai boat launch, pumped them out and hauled 64,000 Summer Steelhead to Echo. We took the nets and anchors to the Hatchery, pushed the pens to the storage area for the summer. Members working were Don Lewis, Greg Glass, Steve Harrison, Bruce Hunter, Naomie Royle, Clinton Englert and Dan Balch. We also had four DFW personnel there running the pump system.

Meanwhile down at the Echo Net Pens at 7:30 a.m. the crew there put together 180 feet of pipe to put the 64,000 Summer Steelhead from Speelyai pens into the Echo pens where they will be fed for six weeks before we turn them loose in the river. Members on that crew were Dan Brown, Dave Bowden, Richard Potenski, Alan Fulcer, Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner and DFW employee Dwayne Fossen. They were done at 1:30 p.m.

Nutrient News

On February 24th at our Lewis River Freezer we loaded the big truck with 450 frozen fish and Dan's Pickup with 160 Frozen fish in two totes. We took the big truck to Cedar Creek by Nick's Tavern and put the carcasses into the creek. Dan's truck went to Malinowski Pond and Cedar Creek and then to Gary Loomis' place where we parked the big truck. After that Alan Fulcer, Greg Glass, Bob Schneider, Roy Pickner

and Dan Balch went back to the Lewis River Hatchery and loaded another two totes with 150 fish. Greg and Dan took 70 fish to Stable Creek and put 80 fish in at Kinnion Creek egg box site. The carcass plantings took about four hours.

March 3rd, Les Grear and Dan Balch picked up 85 frozen fish carcasses. Les took his to Ridgefield High School Egg Box site and Dan took his to Johnson creek where 35 carcasses were put in and Colvin Creek where 20 carcasses were put in.

Mike Moss has hauled some fish to his egg box sites on Cedar Creek. The next major hauling date will probably be Tuesday March 24th with the big truck.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the Net Pen or Nutrient activity there will be a sign up sheet at the March 19th meeting or you can call me at 360-225-7388.

**FISH FIRST
PO BOX 1505
WOODLAND WA 98674**