



November 2009 Issue

Fish First NEWS

Member Meetings Now at Woodland Grange.

In this issue:

<i>Stream Team addition</i>	<i>page 1</i>
<i>Dan on Net Pens</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Nutrients and Egg Boxes</i>	
<i>Potential New FF Projects</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Hatchery Upgrades</i>	<i>page 3,4</i>

MEETING DATES 2009-2010

November 19th, 2009

Dec. 17th, 2009

Jan. 21, 2010

Feb. 18th, 2010

March 18th, 2010

April 15th, 2010

May 20th, 2010

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Thursday Nov. 19th 7 p.m. at the
Woodland Grange. 3rd and
Davidson in downtown
November Program**

**Don Kinsey - Professional Licensed Guide
Specializing in Salmon and Steelhead**

On the Internet: www.fishfirst.org

Jerry Sauer, Membership Chairman, 360-607-1646
Harry Bresnahan, Membership meetings 360-225-9836
Jerry F. Brown, Newsletter Editor 360-600-8559
Cindy Moss, Banquet Chair, 360-225-8476

Fish First Adds Scientist to Stream Team

By Dick Dyrland Project Manager

Fish First is very lucky to be able to add Dr. Frank Reckendorf, a semi-retired fluvial-geomorphologist to assist in Fish First project planning, design and construction. Because we are non-profit we are able to get his services at a much lower than normal rate. Reckendorf is highly respected in the Pacific NW as well as nationally and uses the same technology as Fish First has been using.

FF Income and Expense Breakdown

By Fred Wolfe, Treasurer

All data by percent. (percentages rounded)

Income (where Fish First gets it)

Indirect public Support	= 55%
Banquet Donations	= 31%
Raffle Proceeds	= 7%
Other Accounts	= 8%

Expense (what it is spent on)

Projects	= 77%
Banquet Expense	= 11%
Other Accounts	= 9%
Sales Tax	= 3%

NET PENS, NUTRIENTS & EGG BOXES

DAN BALCH
Net Pen Chairman



Net Pens at Speelyai

October 23rd: Bob Schneider, Tom Lolick, Alan Fulcer, Dennis Drantz, Greg Glass and I met at Speelyai hatchery and repaired 7 nets for net pens that will have been put in October 29th

On the 29th Gary Hahn, Bob Lahti, Bob Schneider, Alan Fulcer, Dennis Frantz, Tom Golic and I put 60,000 Summer Steelhead in the Speelyai pens and we put 25,000 Kokanee in other net pens at Speelyai. We started at 7 a.m. and worked until 3:30 p.m. I used my boat to push the pens to the holding site. WDFW put out predator net and cabled corners October 30th after attaching the predator nets.

October 31st: Kitty and Chance Balch and I picked up seven bags of food at the hatchery and fed fish the first time in the pens. DFW fed on November 2nd. Danny Balch and I fed on November 3rd and WDFW fed on the 4th. I fed on the 5th and Bob Schneider and his boy will feed Fridays in November. The fish are smaller than normal and need to be fed five days a week during November. PP&L won't be hiring a feeder until December.

You can contact me, Dan Balch, at 360-225-7388

Nutrients

The contact for Nutrients is Alan Fulcer at 360-225-5690 if you are interested in this very important project. It looks like we will be getting a substantial amount of Analog nutrients this year for the first time. They are easier to handle, lighter and easier to carry.

Potential Future Projects for Fish First

By Dick Dyrland, Project Manager

The list below represents potential projects. The Board of Directors has not acted on these except for the West Daybreak Planning effort on the East Fork of the Lewis (EFL).

Ongoing Projects:

- West Daybreak 90% Design Project (EFL)
 - Damage Repair of Lewis River Ridge (EFL)
-

Potential New Projects:

- Harteloo: Repair disintegrating channel liner on spring egg box access step pools. Est. \$4000
 - Design restoration of the Jackson Family Cedar Creek reach above Edwards project. About 2/3 mile of Chinook habitat. Include Harteloo holding pool and Chinook spawning bed. Est. \$300,000. NFL-Cedar Creek.
 - Restore Dean Swanson Chum Channel for Chum eggs in cooperation with WA F&W. We need the chum eggs assured before doing this. Project would be with WDFW funds. Est. \$5000. EFL
 - Mason Creek pool and spring restoration for key Steelhead and Coho rearing. Est. \$30,000. EFL
 - US Forest Service Co-op projects: A), above abandoned bridge to build step-pools for Steelhead use in steep boulder dominated reach. Upper EFL. B), work with US Forest Service to develop projects above Swift Dam in free-flowing portions of the NFL. No budget Est.
 - Degrading reference reach bend on EFL on DeFreze property above Daybreak Bridge to provide key rearing habitat for salmon. Est. \$45,000.
 - Old Ridgefield Pits hydrologic and flood control analysis, Step 1 Est. \$30,000. Develop restoration plan and restore salmon and steelhead passage and reduce extreme summer temperatures. Est. total project \$500,000.
 - BPA Power Line Bend 700 ft. of bank restoration on lower EFL below Ridgefield Pits to protect Chinook and Coho spawning beds and create holding/rearing pool. Est. \$45,000.
 - Develop additional side-channel in lower East Fork. Est. \$35,000.
-

Lewis R. Hatchery makes Major Addition

By Jerry Brown, Newsletter Editor

Eric Shoblom, Assistant Director of the Lewis River Hatchery is justifiably proud of the new Adult Fish Sorting and Spawning structure at the Hatchery located at 4404 Old Lewis River Rd. East of Woodland.



Lewis R. Sorting and Spawning Facility

According to Shoblom the facility was about seven months in construction and cost in the neighborhood of \$4 million. It was completed earlier in 2009 and has been working for a few months. He said it is much less labor intensive and is friendlier to both the wild fish and the people who work at the hatchery.

The process of fish intake is more mechanized as most fish come up a ladder out of the North Fork of the Lewis while some others come from the base of Merwin Dam and are trucked to the facility. The fish are in a raceway and electrically operated gates crowd them toward what he believes is the world's only "Pescalator", basically an escalator for fish. From there they go up to the top level where they are in baskets, are stunned electrically, sorted and wild fish are returned or put in tanks for transport above Swift Dam in a new program of reintroducing Salmon and Steelhead in that reach of the river. Hatchery Fish go to a number of uses. Fish categories include nutrient enhancement, broodstock, native and surplus. Surplus fish are for food and other uses. The facility gets the occasional Steelhead which is recycled back to the river alive and well.



Eric Shoblom, Lewis R. Hatchery

Before the new sorting and spawning facility was put into operation all that activity took place at ground level and fish were caught and selected with nets and 'bonked' with bats unless they were wild fish destined for return to the river he said. The new facility is also more productive. Whereas about 3,000 fish could be processed by a crew working into the night before the sorting and spawning facility, now a smaller crew can handle from 4,500 to 5,000 and not have to work into the night.

In addition to the regular work of the Hatchery the new facility dovetails with a WDFW program to reintroduce Salmon above Swift Dam with assisting in transporting Wild Fish above the Dams.



Stunning Grid and Sorting Area on top level. Fish come up from ground level via the "Pescalator."

(Hatchery cont.)

The Lewis River Hatchery is funded by Pacific Corp but is owned and operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.



End of the line. Processed fish slide down spiral channels and into waiting baskets, totes etc. at the road level.



Where the nutrient carcasses come out.

Fish First has had a long and beneficial relationship with the Lewis River Hatchery both as a source of nutrient fish, as a source of small fish for the net pen program and as a source of eggs for the RSI program. The Newsletter wishes to thank Hatchery Manager Jim Byrnes and Assistant Manager Eric Shoblom for assistance with this article.

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