



NOVEMBER 2010 Issue

Fish First NEWS A NEW HOME !!!

Member Meeting 7 pm NOV 18th, 2010 at 1805 Howard Way in Woodland (see story this page)

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FF Building at 1805 Howard Way, Woodland

MEETING DATES 2010
MEMBER MEETINGS AT FF Headquarters 1805 Howard Way IN WOODLAND
November 18 th
December 16
2011
January 20
February 17
March 17
April 21
May 19
2011 Banquet & Auction Sat. May 7th

A NEW HOME FOR FISH FIRST IN WOODLAND

For the first time ever Fish First has a home. LifePort of Woodland, now owned by Sikorsky which is a subsidiary of United Technologies Company, donated use of a major portion of the building above at 1805 Howard Way in Woodland to Fish First for the foreseeable future. Fish First deeply appreciates their generosity and support.

New FF President Gary Darley who recently sold Lifeport to Sikorsky made the deal which was possible since there was not a planned immediate use for the building on the LifePort Campus in the Woodland Industrial area.

The Board of Fish First is already holding its meetings in the building and all future

Please give your business to those who support Fish First. Without their support and donations we couldn't work to save the Fish.

membership meetings will be held there. Previously membership meeting space had been generously provided by the Oak Tree Restaurant.

GETTING THERE

The building can be accessed by either Exit 21 or Exit 22 (Dike Rd.) off I-5. If you are coming north on I-5 or are in Woodland, take Pacific St. (the frontage road on the west side of I-5) north to its end and make the left onto Scott, over the RR tracks and then right onto Schurman. North on Schurman to Heritage and West on Heritage to its end and then left onto Howard Way. Close to the end of Howard there is another LifePort building on the right. Turn into the parking lot and proceed to the back of the building and you will see the 1805 building. FF is the first door.

If you are coming from the North, take exit 22 and turn right at the bottom of the exit and left on Schurman which is just past the turnaround. Go to Heritage St. and turn right. At the end of Heritage turn left onto Howard Way and go almost to the end where you will see the LifePort building. Turn into the parking lot and go to the back of the building where you will see the FF building. FF is the first door.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Available funds will be used to furnish tables, chairs and kitchen items like a coffee maker. There are two meeting rooms that will hold about 30-40 people and other rooms that can be used as offices or for smaller committee meetings.

The first use of the building was a FF Board meeting held Nov. 3rd. The next will be the FF General Membership meeting November 18th. The Board would like as many members as possible to attend and see your building. Fish First has been meeting in a variety of places for the 15 years it has existed including the Oak Tree Restaurant, The Woodland High School, Woodland Grange and North Clark Co. Fire Stations and the meeting room above the Mini Mart in LaCenter where the Board has been meeting the last several months. In most cases FF has been able to secure the meeting rooms free due to its non-profit status and the generous attitude of those owning the buildings.

The building will also provide a place for what are now 'traveling' files that are kept track of by various Board members. Meeting aids like white boards, magic markers, flip charts etc. will be added as need arises.



Street map to FF Building. Red dot shows the location on Howard Way in the Port of Woodland area west of the I-5 Freeway

It will take a while to settle in and get all the things needed for efficient and comfortable working room. Thanks again LifePort/Sikorsky.

NURTIENTS, THE NEXT MAJOR INITIATIVE FOR FISH FIRST

Putting maximum Nutrients back in the streams provides the best bang for the buck in salmon recovery. So why does the Washington State government sell nutrients to a monopoly fish buyer for pennies on the dollar of value and see them turned into cat food among other things while Sportsmen's groups like Fish First get an ever smaller supply to put into the streams? This issue deserves everyone's attention and their full efforts to reform.

WHY MAJOR AMOUNTS OF NUTRIENTS ARE NEEDED IN THE STREAMS

Northwest streams are nearly sterile without the nutrients that the dying spawning Salmon provide. The massive overharvest of the huge runs of

decades ago meant the loss of the nutrients because the carcasses were not available for nature to turn into nutrients to feed salmon smolt. Without sufficient nutrients the critical egg to smolt ratio has dropped alarmingly. We know that ratio goes up dramatically when sufficient nutrients are added. Fish First began adding nutrients years ago to Cedar Creek and tributaries of the North Fork of the Lewis River (NFL). Studies proved beyond a doubt that increased nutrients meant increased smolt and increased survival with more fish going to the ocean and an increase of wild and native fish coming back into the streams.

HOW NUTRIENTS GET BACK INTO THE STREAMS

Historically returning wild fish provided sufficient nutrients. But today with so few fish returning and most runs are listed, it leaves our Hatcheries to provide excess nutrients that the rivers need to increase the number of wild and native smolts heading for the ocean. WA State hatcheries could and should provide millions of pounds of carcasses for needed nutrients for the upper watersheds of our rivers. That isn't happening.

The trouble is WDFW isn't 100% behind adding major amounts of nutrients and there is competition for the nutrients. Cooperating Sportsmen's groups have and would continue to take those carcasses and put them back into the streams as nutrients. But the available carcasses are fewer each year. There is some history behind this sorry state of things.

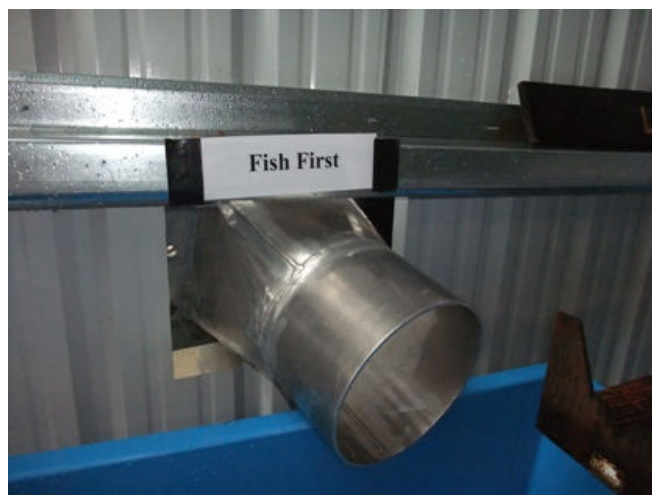
Before the need for heavy nutrient replacement became known, hatcheries had to do something with the excess carcasses from the returning fish. At one time it was prohibited to throw excess carcasses back in the rivers because authorities thought it would be polluting the rivers and creeks! No satisfactory solution was at hand.

Eventually a single fish buyer came to the State and offered to take the carcasses. It seemed like an ideal solution then and the State even got a little money for a valuable product that included surplus eggs and carcasses. The Legislature passed a law spelling out how carcasses could be disposed of and where money from that activity

was to go. It wasn't to the hatcheries that provided the carcasses.

THE CONTROVERSY

Now that the benefits of nutrient replacement are widely known, demand has grown for putting those carcasses back into the streams to help restore the Wild and Native Fish. When the nutrient movement started FF could distribute tens of thousands of the returning salmon from the NFL hatchery. That number, despite our protests, has sunk to only a few thousand which is not enough to do the job. This same scenario is happening on most of the Salmon-run rivers in Washington.



Not many salmon carcasses coming down the chute for Fish First at the Lewis River Hatchery. Who is getting them?

WDFW says it is mandated by the Legislature that more salmon go to the food banks and more money to the RFEs. This is decreasing the number of fish for nutrients. In the past they got enough food quality fish to supply the food banks and they are taking even more now than they did then.

The NFL Hatchery is a mitigation hatchery rather than a State Hatchery. The buyer doesn't pay for any of the fish coming from there. He only pays for fish coming from the state hatchery.

Under the contract the buyer provides some filets from food quality fish to food banks but the filets are only a portion of the fish. The hundreds of thousands of lbs. of nutrients left after the filets

are taken are important to Salmon recovery and should be going back to the rivers, but are instead going to go to a cat food factory the buyer company has started. Hatcheries are not legislatively mandated to supply food banks or feed cats.

The buyer pays pennies a pound for the fish including the surplus eggs. There have been hatcheries in the past that have provided 100,000 lb. of eggs whose value may average \$5/lb. The value from that one hatchery is five times the total of the new increased statewide contract amount. This does not sound like reasonable management of public resources. Instead it sounds like a giveaway at taxpayer expense.

It was recently reported that four Oregon hatcheries on the Willamette River may have received \$500,000 dollars for their surplus carcasses and eggs. If true this is a stunning piece of information. Washington has many, many times that number of hatcheries and realizes almost nothing monetarily from those resources. The current effort is strictly for short term convenience. Long term salmon survival through nutrient replacement is getting cut out because of bad legislation and a few bucks from a monopoly fish buyer who turns carcasses to cat food.

Fish First won't accept the status quo and will focus our efforts on reforming the nutrient disposal program. This is about the survival of the Wild and Native Salmon, those on the Endangered Species List not the Hatchery fish. If the Wild and Native Fish go extinct the rest will eventually follow.

FISH FIRST
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NET PENS

By Dan Balch



Net Pen work got underway in September with Greg Glass, Chance Balch and myself working on the Speelyai pens five days replacing decking, pushing to the holding site and reinforcing corners broken during storage. On October 18th Greg Glass, Gary Hurn, Bob Lathi, Don Stephens, Bob Kruger, Richard Potenski and myself went to Speelyai to put fish in 7 net pens. There were 24,600 Kokanee and 60,000 Summer Steelhead. We also did work on anchors and bird nets. Greg and I finished the day by pushing the pens to the holding site, and tying them to anchors. Workers put in between 9 and 11 hours that day.

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Assistant: Dan Balch 360-225-7388

MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOV. 18TH

Membership Chair Jerry Sauer reports Guide Eric Linde will be the speaker and talk about winter fishing opportunities. There will also be a drawing for fishing equipment. Be there to hear Eric and see your new building. 1805 Howard Way in Woodland's Port District.
