



# FISH FIRST NEWS

RESTORING WILD AND NATIVE FISH RUNS

## **SPEAKER, LOCATION CHANGE ANNOUNCED FOR DECEMBER 21 GENERAL MEETING**

The location has changed for the December 21 General Meeting for Fish First members. The December meeting will be held in the **Commons Room at Woodland Middle School**.

The speaker for the meeting is Mark Hart, enforcement officer for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Hart will discuss fish and wildlife enforcement issues and how his group has been using the night vision goggles that Fish First donated to the organization. We hope to see you there.

## **CHECK NEW FISH FIRST WEB SITE FOR LATEST INFORMATION**

Fish First recently launched a new, updated Web site that includes the organization's new logo, colors and a variety of helpful information about the group's mission and goals. Please visit the new site at [www.fishfirst.org](http://www.fishfirst.org) and take the time to review Fish First projects, check for meeting updates and other information, view the Fish First video and comment on the blog written by Fish First president Gary Loomis (The blog is called "Gary's Rant.").

We would also appreciate your feedback on how we can make the site even better, so please send comments to: [info@fishfirst.org](mailto:info@fishfirst.org) and write "Web site" in the subject line.

## **FISH FIRST SEEKS VOLUNTEER GRANT WRITER**

Fish First is seeking a volunteer grant coordinator. Responsibilities include: finding grant opportunities for Fish First legal fees and projects; grant writing; reviewing grant opportunities sent to Fish First for applicability and chance for success; recruiting, training and coordinating volunteer grant writers. For more information, please contact Fish First Executive Director John DiVittorio at 360.713.7460.

## **WEYERHAUSER STUDY CONFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF MARINE- DERIVED NUTRIENTS**

Weyerhaeuser's Dr. Bob Bilby recently discussed research he has conducted on some western Washington streams that shows the importance of marine-derived nutrients for entire ecosystems.

The nutrients are returned via salmon carcasses and play a significant role in determining the size of fingerlings. Coho that grew up in nutrient-rich surroundings (carcasses provided by researchers) had a *41 percent higher over-wintering survival rate than fish in streams with few returning spawners*.

Steelhead in enhanced streams had *50 times* as much food in their stomachs as fish in non-enriched streams. Dr. Bilby found that 90 percent of the food in the steelhead's stomachs at age one was derived from carcasses.

While nutrient enhancement via fish carcasses has been an important part of our organization's efforts, this study helps to support our own efforts and results.



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## NUTRIENT ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

Activity at the Lewis River Hatchery has been increasing this past month as the returning Coho make their way up the ladder into the holding ponds. Up until the last two weeks, most of the returning fish were turned over to the fish buyer as they were of edible quality. The peak of the return was reached last week with almost all of the carcasses turned over to Fish First.

With the peak of the return, we were able to make our commitment to the U. S. Forest Service consisting of 3409 carcasses which were placed in totes and stored in a refrigerated trailer provided by the USFS. The USFS plans on moving the trailer to the Swift Reservoir boat launch parking lot where the carcasses will be picked-up by a helicopter and dropped over Pine Creek. This is a project funded by a grant from Pacific Power in our name with an objective of improving the habitat along Pine Creek to encourage Bull Trout spawning and later on, Coho.

Our next effort is to place 2000 carcasses in the East Fork as high as possible. To be more beneficial to the emerging fry and not be washed away prematurely by the high water, we are keeping as many carcasses in the freezer(s) as possible to be distributed at a later date..

To date we have received a total of 6512 carcasses: 1334 carcasses are in the freezer, 3409 are destined for Pine Creek and the remaining 1769 have been distributed to streams feeding the lower Lewis.

Members who have contributed to this effort so far are: **Glen Johnston, Gary Loomis, Mark DiVittorio, John DiVittorio, Dan Balch, Dennis Frantz, Al Fulcer, Tom Golik and two new members, Barb Scardigh and Chris McGlottin.**

A big Thank You goes out to these members for their help, patience and advice.

--Richard Potenski

## NET PEN UPDATE

Weather caused problems when putting our Kokanee and Steelhead in our nine Speelie net pens.

The storm just before November 15th caused a 40-acre log jam where we placed our net pens last year. It also broke loose the net pens from the old site and landed them high on stumps and mud. We had to wait for the lake to come up again before we could pull them loose. The power company put in four new anchors next to the two anchors left after the storm.

Finally, on November 29<sup>th</sup> **Bob Schneider, Gary Hurn, Stan Juve, Chris McGlottlin, Glen Johnson, Richard Potenski, Dennis Frantz, Alan Fulcer and Dan Balch** each spent nine hours putting Fish into pens. Stan, Dan, Cody and Brian pushed the pens to the old site and tied them up. We finished the day at 5:00 p.m.

The first time we fed the fish was Friday, December 1st. If you are interested in helping to feed the fish please call **Dan Balch at 360.225.7388**. We are still developing the feeding schedule and volunteers are appreciated.

I want to give a **Big Thanks** for The Speelie Crew.

--Dan Balch

## CEMENT FINISHER NEEDED

Volunteer cement finishers are needed to work on a fish rescue pond on Mill Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Lewis, in January and February, Please contact Fish First Executive Director John DiVittorio at 360.713.7460 for more information.