



# ODFW Field Reports

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
August 5, 2016

## EAST REGION

Bruce Eddy, Region Manager

### Davis Lake Largemouth Bass Project

Department personnel removed largemouth bass from Davis Lake in central Oregon last May. Bass were illegally introduced there in 1997 and the population expanded rapidly, damaging the popular native, redband trout fishery. As part of this effort, bass removed from Davis Lake are used to supplement bass populations in other lakes managed for warm water fisheries.

The Davis Lake bass removal and transfer effort began in 1999. Approximately 1,200 bass in total were removed during transfer efforts in 2008 and 2009. More than twenty ponds and reservoirs throughout the state have received fish from Davis Lake making it one of the more important sources for stocking adult bass into other waters in Oregon.



This year's capture effort suffered from a number of equipment problems and was below average. Largemouth bass were captured using night time boat electrofishing. The following morning, fish were measured, loaded into portable liberation tanks, and transferred to receiving waters. More than 360 largemouth bass were transferred in 2016; many weighing

3 to 4 pounds. Bass were transferred into eight water bodies: Lost Creek Reservoir, Unity Reservoir, St Louis Ponds, and four central Oregon youth ponds.

This is one of a number of projects developed and implemented by the Department's Inland Trout Working Group. The group, commonly referred to as the Reservoir Dogs, is made up of headquarters and field staff. Its purpose is to focus attention on high priority projects and plan the efficient use of limited resources to solve issues surrounding fisheries management in lakes and reservoirs.

### Umatilla Hatchery

The purpose of Umatilla Hatchery is to support the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead to the Umatilla basin and maintain recreation harvest on associated fisheries. Salmon and steelhead were extirpated from the Umatilla Basin in the early 1900's. Restoration of these populations and the associated fisheries is part of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program and is funded by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

This restoration effort began in 1989 with the adoption of the Umatilla Hatchery Master Plan, which was later expanded into the Umatilla Sub-basin Plan. As part of these plans, Umatilla Hatchery was to provide most of the fish for this effort. Since adoption of the plan and construction of Umatilla Hatchery, adult salmon and steelhead returns to the Umatilla Basin have slowly improved and tribal and sport fisheries have been restored. Unfortunately, we've not yet reached adult return goals established in the 1980's and natural production resulting from supplementation is below desired status.

One problem we've struggled with is a shortfall in the Umatilla Hatchery water supply. The wells that supply water to the hatchery were designed to produce 15,000 gpm. Currently, they're only producing about 5,000 gpm and as a result production has been reduced from a facility design level of 290,000 pounds of salmon and steelhead juveniles to 99,400 pounds. While staff have been successful at making the best use of the water that is available and shifting production to other facilities, we continue to work at improving the Umatilla Hatchery water supply with our partners: BPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Umatilla Tribe.

## WEST REGION

Steve Marx, Region Manager

### Cedar Creek Hatchery Renovation

Several construction projects are simultaneously underway to accommodate added production at Cedar Creek Hatchery.

The project goals are to replace two old and failing raceways to accommodate the additional production of 120,000 spring Chinook smolts for the Nestucca Basin, as per the Coastal Multi-species Plan. This will bring the total hatchery spring Chinook production in the Nestucca River Basin to 230,000 smolts (200k in the mainstem Nestucca and 30k in the Little Nestucca). Two new raceways are also being built to rear 230,000 Trask River spring Chinook which are being shifted to Cedar Creek with the closure of the East Fork Trask Pond. The closure of the pond is part of a fish passage improvement project on the East Fork Trask River to remove the Trask River Hatchery dam; this will enhance natural production in that system.

Infrastructure work is occurring at Cedar Creek Hatchery to improve the drain lines to the pollution abatement system (with new pumps) so it can handle the discharge that goes with the new added production at the facility.

Additionally, work is being done to upgrade the Three River water intake with a new pumping system and auxiliary power generation that will provide the needed amount of water to Pond 14, and water to the two new raceways being built

(additional SAFE production), new egg incubators and a micron-drum filter are being added to the hatch-house, and finally one of the old residences is having a major renovation with new flooring, new kitchen, new bathroom, new utility room and the needed amenities that will make it very attractive to new employees wanting to transfer to the facility.

The renovation project is currently in full swing. Pond demolition, leveling, and laying of base rock was completed in mid-July and much of the rebar is now set. The Three Rivers Pump and Generator project is nearing completion. The generator was run for most of a day last Thursday in test mode. The old Three Rivers pump intake line was pulled out of the pump bay to be utilized as a new supply line in Pond 14. The house renovation and remodel are being completed by ODFW staff. The renovation work is scheduled for completion by the end of October this year.



be included in the management plan scheduled for completion in December 2017.

### **Diamond Lake**

Two seasonal employees are currently working at Diamond Lake conducting creel surveys and fish monitoring. Monitoring focuses on tracking the illegal release of tui chub into the lake. Information from the effort will be used to develop management direction to address the expanding tui chub population over time.

In a little over five weeks (June 9 – July 15), staff completed 23 trap net pulls, or about three trap days a week. Traps are set about 24 hours each set. Results showed 10,809 golden shiners, 993 juvenile rainbow trout, 52 adult rainbow trout, 79 tiger trout, and 9 tui chub, giving a ratio of about 1,200 golden shiners for every tui chub found. The crew collected 7 males and 2 female tui chub ranging from 5 to 9 inches; all were maturing but had not spawned. Tui chub spawning is temperature dependent, typically requiring consistent temperatures in the high 60s which had not yet occurred in the June 9 – July 15 time period.

Staff cleans the trap and weir panels at Lake Creek, Diamond Lake's outlet, several times a day. During this time period, they collected 4 juvenile rainbow trout, 15 golden shiners and a handful of crawfish in the trap. Statistical creel survey data is not yet available, but fishing has been excellent.

### **Gail Achterman Wildlife Area Bird Count**

Official bird surveys at the new Gail Achterman Wildlife Area were completed by the Mid-Willamette Habitat Biologist with the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program and volunteers from the Salem Audubon. The interior of the site was visited four times since early June and 45 species were documented. That sample is representative of only a portion of the ecotypes on the island so the overall diversity is anticipated to be even higher. Noteworthy species include bald eagle, willow flycatcher, red-breasted sapsucker, Swainson's thrush, lazuli bunting, and red-eyed vireo. Information collected from the surveys provides a baseline assessment of species using the property and will

## **INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

Rick Hargrave, Deputy Administrator

### **Consumer website project**

In March, the subcontractor, Substance hired to design and develop the Agency's new consumer website closed its doors. Substance completed a significant amount of work prior to their shut down; including developing the site's content strategy, information architecture, page outlines, and design comps. Other than a few loose details, the project was close to entering the development stage.

Since Substance closed, ODFW worked closely with Travel Oregon to hire a new subcontractor. [ThinkShout](#), a Portland based firm with strong branding, marketing, development and Customer Relationship Management integration skills was selected. Initial work to restart the project has begun. The anticipated launch of the site is three to six months.



### **Salesforce Update**

ODFW completed the initial integration of Salesforce with its replicated database in May. It quickly moved to fulfill one of the major goals of the project – send “Thank You” emails to customers for their recent purchase. Since implemented, ODFW has sent over 22,000 “Thank You” messages to opted-in customers. The average open rate is 49.61% (the average open rate for government emails is 3.22%). As the Agency becomes more familiar and comfortable with the system, more targeted and custom messages will be sent to customers. (Note – ODFW has only about 18% of its customers' emails.)

### **How to Hunt for Deer and Elk in Oregon Video Series**

Consistent with actions called for in the newly released “National Hunting & Shooting Sports

Action Plan, Strategies for Recruiting, Retaining and Reactivating Hunting and Shooting Sports Participants”, the department is developing a comprehensive self-learning tool targeted towards adults who are interested in learning how to hunt deer and elk in Oregon. We have contracted with Oregon State University’s Program for Adult Continuing Education to develop an online course that will use written, graphic and video content to educate new hunters on the basics of hunting – from what licenses and equipment are needed all the way through scouting, hunting techniques and what to do once you have an animal down. Cody Herman, of Day One Outdoors, is developing the video content, while Scott Haugan, a renowned author who specializes in hunting and fishing, has been contracted to provide written content. This, first of its kind comprehensive learn to hunt resource, is funded with federal Pittman-Robertson funds and is scheduled to be completed in late August.

#### **“Fishing is Fun” Retail End Cap Displays**

These ODFW developed retail displays are designed to make it less intimidating for new angling participants to find the basic equipment and information needed to begin fishing. The retail displays provide the basic information all new anglers must have – “What do I need? Where do I go? How do I do it?”. Already in place at all nine of Oregon’s Dick’s Sporting Goods and both Oregon Cabela’s locations, the displays will be installed soon in all sixty-one Oregon Bi-Mart stores.

#### **Washington Park Archery Range**

ODFW partnered with the Portland Parks and Recreation Department on a project that significantly enhanced the popular Washington Park Archery Range. The project, completed on July 21<sup>st</sup>, consisted of establishing a single shooting line and 10 target stands which vary in distance from 10 yards to 70 meters.



These improvements significantly enhance the safety and function of the range, and will now be able to accommodate significantly more archers. Federal Pittman-Robertson funds were used.

## **OCEAN SALMON AND COLUMBIA RIVER PROGRAM**

Tucker Jones, Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program Manager

### **A review of non-Indian 2016 mainstem spring Chinook fisheries**

Recreational and commercial spring Chinook fisheries in the Columbia River officially concluded on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the end of the management period. Although some of the details still need to be finalized, preliminary results are that the fisheries largely met pre-season plans and expectations.

The preseason forecast called for 188,800 upriver spring Chinook salmon to return to the Columbia River mouth. It appears, pending finalization, that the actual return was approximately 184,000, a difference of less than 3%.

Following Commission guidance and the catch balancing provision of the US vs Oregon management agreement, pre-update allocations were for 10,969 Chinook for non-Indian fisheries; including 7,515 and 1,222 salmon for the recreational and mainstem commercial fisheries respectively downstream of Bonneville Dam. Preseason modeling indicated that the lower river recreational fishery could run from March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup> (38 days). The recreational fishery closed after 37 days on April 8<sup>th</sup> and used 100% (n = 7,525) of its pre-update allocation. The mainstem commercial fishery had two open periods, the second using landing limits (four fish per boat), and used 94% (n = 1,144) of its pre-update allocation.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the run was updated and recreational and commercial fisheries resumed. Final allocations for Columbia River recreational fisheries (all areas) were 13,469 upriver Chinook salmon, and for mainstem commercial fisheries were 2,999 upriver Chinook Salmon.

The post-update recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam was open for three weekend periods in May (May 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, and May 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>), and then opened June 3<sup>rd</sup> and ran through the end of the management period on June 15<sup>th</sup>; from June 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> the boat angling deadline was extended upstream to Bonneville Dam. The recreational fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam was opened for five additional days, May 7-8 and May 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the preliminary combined catch for the recreational fishery was about 12,450 out of the 13,469 (92%) upriver Chinook salmon allocated to it during an estimated 134,171 angler trips.



The mainstem commercial fishery had four open periods post-update, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and June 7<sup>th</sup> (the June open period was conducted with a landing limit of six fish per boat). Overall, the mainstem spring Chinook commercial fishery caught 2,846 out of its allocated 2,999 (95%) upriver spring Chinook salmon. Combined, it appears that recreational and commercial non-Indian fisheries used 93% of the catch allocated to them during spring 2016 fisheries.

## OREGON STATE POLICE

Captain Jeff Samuels, Fish & Wildlife Division

In an effort to recognize the great work of members of the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division, a Team and a Trooper of the Year are selected annually. The awards are given for criteria including excellence, teamwork, mentorship, dedication to protecting Oregon’s citizens and natural resources, going above and beyond the call of duty, and thinking outside the box to address issues to name a few. Nominations are submitted by peers and

forwarded up the chain of command to Division staff at OSP Headquarters where the selections are made. This last month in July, the following members were recognized and commended for 2015 efforts:



2015 OSP F&W Division Team of the Year: Mid-Valley Team (Salem/Albany)  
Team Photograph (left to right: Troopers Brian Glaser, Steve Kenyon, Casey Hunter, Sgt. James Halsey, Troopers Ron Clement, Jim Andrews, and Kirk Burkholder)



2015 OSP F&W Division Trooper of the Year  
Senior Trooper Heather Van Meter  
Marine Fisheries Team – Newport

Heather was also awarded the Shikar-Safari Club International “2015 Wildlife Officer of the Year”

## CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Andrea Hanson, Oregon Conservation Strategy Coordinator

The Oregon spotted frog was listed as a Threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act in August 2014. Multiple threats are

believed to be responsible for a range reduction of more than 90% that include, but are not limited to, habitat loss and changes in hydrology due to anthropogenic water use. The species has been extirpated in California, severely reduced in Washington and is only known to inhabit a limited number of sites in five Oregon counties. The primary areas of occurrence are in Deschutes and Klamath counties.

Prior to and following the listing, ODFW staff have worked with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to monitor known breeding sites. Currently, considerable effort is being expended in the Upper Deschutes Basin to better understand the frog's life history needs in a system that has experienced large hydrological changes due to regulated water use.

Before the development of Crane Prairie and Wickiup Irrigation Reservoirs, flows in the Deschutes River were noted for their remarkable consistency. Yearly flows, just below the current site of Wickiup Dam, varied from ~618 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the winter to ~847 cfs in the summer. Following completion of the two reservoirs, flows just below Wickiup Dam are typically 20-29 cfs during the winter and can exceed 1800 cfs in the summer. Large fluctuations such as these are known to compromise Oregon spotted frog survival. For example, after eggs have been deposited in the spring, significant changes in flows can either strand and desiccate the eggs, or flush them from their depositional sites to be beached or deposited in unsuitable locations downstream. The listing of the Oregon spotted frog, along with the desire to provide water to farmers and other irrigators, has brought together representatives from ODFW, USFWS, USFS, U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon Water Resources Department, the Central Oregon Water Master, and consultants representing five central Oregon irrigation districts to form the Upper Deschutes Oregon Spotted Frog Technical Team. The team's charter is the development of water management recommendations that support the biological needs of the frog while

minimizing potential impacts to the irrigation system and water users.

Although much is known about the Oregon spotted frog's basic life history needs, significant knowledge gaps exist with respect to their use of the river under the current water management regime. For example, the frog requires overwintering sites that provide complex habitat structure to evade predators and water deep enough to prevent them from freezing to death. However, low winter flows dewater wetlands that would provide suitable sites, so where do the frogs go? This fall a USFWS funded study will fit adult frogs with radio transmitters to better understand the timing of movements to overwintering sites and the location and characteristics of those sites. Answers to these and other questions are being sought to provide the technical team with the puzzle pieces needed to fully realize their commission.



## WILDLIFE DIVISION

Kevin Blakely, Assistant Division Administrator

### Revised Schedule for Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Review -

- **August 2016** – Update on Stakeholder Meetings and Wolf Plan Review Issue Discussions (Director's Report)
- **October 2016** – Primary Planning Issues and Commission Guidance for Developing Draft of Wolf Plan (Informational Exhibit item, public testimony)

- **December 2016** – DRAFT Wolf Plan (Informational Exhibit item, public testimony)
- **Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Approval in 2017**

Public record/comment period – began March 18 with Commission direction to proceed with review process after the invited stakeholder panel discussions. Public correspondence regarding wolf plan review is being provided to commissioners and posted online.

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/10\\_oct/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/10_oct/index.asp)

Additional public comments through the Wolf Plan review process can be sent to

[odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us) or  
[ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us)

**END OF FIELD REPORTS FOR  
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