



Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/20/2022

Location: Virtual and Pacific Reef Hotel Meeting Room in Gold Beach Oregon

Current Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Members (STAC)

Committee Members

Vacant – North Coast	Morgan Parks – North Willamette*
Roger Lindquist – South Coast	Rachel Ellison – South Willamette*
Jessica Eubank – Southern Mid Coast/Lower Umpqua	Curtis Bennett – Tenmile, Coos & Coquille
David Grosjacques – Umpqua	Steven Janego – Central Eastern
Carl Cole – Upper Rogue	

ODFW Staff

Marty Olson – R&E/STEP Program Coordinator	John Cox – STEP Biologist*
Steve Emerson – R&E/STEP Program Assistant	Gary Vonderohe – STEP/Assistant District Biologist
Mike Gauvin – Recreational Fisheries Manager*	Morgan Davies – STEP/Assistant District Biologist
Steve Mazur – South Coast District Biologist	Levi Simmons – STEP Biologist*
Christine Clapp – STEP/Assistant District Biologist*	

Public

Mary Duncan	Leonard Krug
Richard Heap	Bruce Blanthorn
Dave Kuehn*	Reese Bender*
Joe Janowitz	

*** Denotes participant joined virtually**

Call to Order & Agenda Approval

Chair S. Janego called the October 20, 2022, Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Introductions were made and D. Grosjacques requested that an R&E update be included in the agenda for the afternoon.

Motion: C. Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as amended, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the May 23, 2022, STAC meeting minutes.

Motion: C. Bennett motioned to approve the May 23, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mini-grant reviews

An overview of each project was given followed by discussion by the board. The board then worked through each project allowing for public comment before voting on each mini-grant.

Whittaker Creek Trap MG 21-18

R. Lindquist asked if it was typical to do a project before submitting the request. S. Janego responded that if it wasn't approved, the district would have to cover it. C. Bennett asked for a more detailed breakout of the costs. S. Emerson said itemized receipts are required for funds to be released.

Motion: R. Lindquist motion to approve MG 21-18, C. Bennett seconded, motion carried unanimously. S. Janego said next time ask for approval first, but this was urgent, and the board understands that.

Applegate Outdoor School Program MG 21-19

C. Cole was the STAC sponsor for this mini-grant. D. Grosjacques voiced support for the project. R. Lindquist voiced support. Group talked about how kids don't remember much from the classroom, but they all remember the outdoor school projects.

Motion: C. Bennett motioned to approve, D. Grosjacques seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sampling in the Deschutes River Basin MG 21-20

S. Janego gave an overview of the project. Would allow OSU to create a baseline of data on water flows and the effects.

Motion: R. Lindquist motioned to approve, C. Cole seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Lower Owyhee Gravel Augmentation MG 21-21

S. Janego talked about the history of the area and existing signage. The group talked about how everyone was surprised at first to see an Idaho fishing club asking for Oregon money, but how great of a project it seems to be and that these people clearly value our Oregon resources and are working to protect them.

Motion: D. Grosjacques motioned to approve, C. Bennett seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Coquille High School Education Hatchery Pump Replacement MG 21-22

C. Bennett gave an overview of the project. Works closely with this school and M. Davies. Noted that the breakdown of the costs of the pump is missing. M. Davies gave some more specific details about the pump, its

location, and placement. M. Davies noted that the full cost is \$2,700 because a local pump shop gave them a break on cost to help support the educational hatchery. D. Grosjacques added that the Coquille High School was possibly the first to catch and spawn fish for an educational hatchery.

R. Lindquist asked how much the pump is retail, M. Davies said about \$3200 so the program was given about a \$500 break.

Motion: R. Lindquist motioned to approve, S. Janego seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Mini-Grant Review Process Discussion

S. Janego asked if anyone had any ideas or suggestions to improve this review process and D. Grosjacques suggested that we have public comment during the project overview instead of right before the vote on each.

ACTION ITEM: R. Lindquist comment for Marty and Steve, put the mini-grant number on top right of the application page.

R. Lindquist asked as to whether money that is not used in one biennium carries over to the next, M. Gauvin said no, the money is replenished at the beginning of the next biennium as part of the RE administrative budget. A total of \$10,000 of projects were funded this morning.

S. Janego asked the board if they would like to agree to go back to their clubs and spread the word about this program and grant opportunity. Group discussed how these grants are small but have large impact and there can be a lot of grants because of the total allocation.

Group wants respective STAC representative to be notified when a grantee isn't getting reports in on time. S. Janego asked if we want to track any of these mini-grants based on category, like habitat, education, repairs, etc. D. Grosjacques said that Kevin Herkamp had a list like that, and it should be somewhere. R. Lindquist said he thought it was in the annual report. Category check boxes are on the applications.

M. Gauvin talked about a subgroup/subcommittee to tighten up things as S. Janego suggested. Continued that this afternoon the group can talk about STAC guidelines development and how to tighten these things up and give the programs more detail.

Richard Heap said regarding reimbursements, R&E doesn't pay up front for projects. Groups have bank accounts, spend the money, then get reimbursed. R. Heap continued, thinks it's time for a conversation between STAC and R&E about the mini-grants. R&E doesn't know what STAC is doing, and it would be good for R&E to acknowledge the projects that STAC is funding. There is now a gap between what R&E and STAC do, somewhere between \$2,000 and what R&E does. R&E has expressed concern that moving focus to larger projects may cut out some of the smaller projects at values like \$8,000-\$9,000. Might be a good time to revisit mini-grants and what the limit on a mini-grant is. Perhaps increase the dollar amount. R. Lindquist pointed out that most of the projects approved today had total costs well over \$2,000. C. Bennett said that STAC has asked for more money. S. Janego said the board should take this on as an action item. S. Janego said board needs to show that they are good stewards of the money and track it better. R. Heap said R&E could benefit from a report from STAC about what was funded and why.

Leonard Krug asked how big the R&E budget is, D. Grosjacques said 4-5 million per biennium. Leonard asked what the value of the fish are, and group answered, "a lot". R. Lindquist said here we extend fishing for a month, and it impacts stores, hotels, rentals, gas, etc. Group discussed what the economic value is to be promoting these fisheries and keeping them going and healthy. M. Gauvin added that our impact is statewide, and the most commonly harvested fish is trout. Said it is hard to put a dollar value on it because there are so many things impacted by it but that it is a huge number. M. Gauvin suggested that STAC members get an R&E

101 run down at some point. D. Grosjacques said he can do it in 5 minutes. M. Gauvin said budget for STAC will be proposed in January, so conversation about amount needs to happen no later than December.

ACTION ITEM: D. Grosjacques, M. Olson, and S. Janego have a meeting about R&E 101 overview and determine if STAC Board wants to ask for more money from R&E. Will meet and discuss ideas by the end of December.

Break

STEP STAC Rules Presentation

Chair S. Janego resumed meeting at 9:36.

G. Vonderohe gave a presentation on STEP rules updates.

Why update the rules?

- The Commission asked for specific rules for the STAC.
- STEP OARS haven't been updated in 36 years.

Concern about vacant STAC position being filed by public at-large. What are STAC's thoughts on this?

Question from public: Has there been talk about changing how they are appointed so there isn't such a delay in appointing people? S. Janego said will address later after getting understanding of whole document, will circle back. R. Lindquist talked about how if STAC were to appoint people there would have to be some guidelines as to when that would occur, like after 2 unsuccessful solicitations by the agency. S. Janego said operational guidelines would be a perfect place for that. S. Janego continued that vacancies do affect the fish because there isn't a representative focusing on the area. S. Janego continued that having an at-large candidate would be nice to have extra bandwidth to help in different areas so there would be more than one person in an area where something is going on that needs more hours to focus on it. C. Bennett said that there is some concern that an at-large person wouldn't know the area and be the best representative. Continued that the reason for having geographic assignments assures that representatives know their area best. R. Lindquist agreed with these concerns regardless of how passionate and gung-ho the person may be. R. Lindquist used example of someone from Astoria going to represent a completely different area. M. Gauvin added that these are governor appointed positions so to place someone temporarily, we would need changes in statute. R. Lindquist asked if the public at-large position would serve a 4-year term and the answer was yes. S. Janego said there could be some positives like new fresh ideas from an at-large candidate. D. Grosjacques said that he would much rather have someone from the region than an at-large representative. The board would continue without the representative. At-large should be last resort. C. Bennett agreed. C. Cole agreed and said that he would rather have someone from a specific area, asked if a person from one side of the state would be capable of traveling across the state to help with projects. J. Eubank said that she's kind of unsure but would agree that someone not from an area would not be as good as someone from the area. R. Lindquist said he is staunch on this, no at-large, can't remember a time the board was complete anyway. R. Lindquist said it wouldn't be feasible for a Salem person to travel to Eastern Oregon for a day. D. Grosjacques pointed out that he doesn't live in his district but spends lots of time there and knows it well. R. Ellison asked how long you must live in a region to be considered from there and have their finger on the pulse of the area. R. Ellison asked how you would determine who gets to be involved, maybe a non-voting member who could be at-large? M. Parks was unavailable to comment. S. Janego summarized that majority doesn't support an at-large candidate.

635-009-0106 Program Volunteers

R. Lindquist asked if background checks and fingerprints etc. were going to be the norm for all volunteers? Said knows some people that wouldn't pass these (joke). G. Vonderohe said this says STEP program would follow the overall ODFW volunteer rules. G. Vonderohe explained that there are different levels of volunteers. Showing up for just fin-clipping for a day hasn't been needing background checks, but if someone is working with kids in a school, yes. R. Lindquist would like to see this fleshed out further, G. Vonderohe said that is kind of out of the scope of these rules.

ACTION ITEM: S. Janego: Inject STAC Board into the conversation with Darlene Sprecher (ODFW Volunteer Coordinator) and department process.

M. Gauvin added that these conversations have been had and that whatever is decided is determined by the administrative rule and STAC/STEP will have to follow it. If someone around kids shouldn't be there and something goes wrong, the state is liable. At the end of the day, whatever is decided by the Commission/agency is what we'll have to follow. We have been providing input and pressing for the distinction between types of volunteers (e.g., one day fin clipping vs regularly volunteering person like angler ed instructors). The word "must" has to stay in because we must follow state rules.

D. Grosjacques asked about STEP bios that aren't full time with the STEP program. G. Vonderohe said he is half time STEP; Morgan Davies is also half. Springfield has 2 STEP bios, one is 20% STEP, other is 80% STEP. Each district has 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) sometimes split between two people.

635-009-0110 STEP Project Application

D. Grosjacques asked about STEP rules being changed and hearing that there is a rumor that the STEP rules are being changed to eliminate hatcheries. G. Vonderohe said that years ago when they upped steelhead bag limit to 3, people said it was because they were planning on shutting down the hatcheries.

Public comment: there is a lot of outside pressure to close hatcheries. Changes make people nervous and outreach to explain what's going on and to do more outreach to get the message out that we aren't trying to shut down hatcheries.

635-009-0120 STEP Revocation of Project Approval

G. Vonderohe explained that it was updated to allow Department to amend (not just revoke) a project. Also adds STAC involvement. R. Lindquist said that tying the review to the conservation plans is a good idea, because why review something every 5 years if it has been approved for 12 years and there have been no changes to the management plans? S. Janego said it's nice to involve STAC in these things. R. Lindquist added that the CMP was ugly, but STAC was nowhere to be found. Said it would be nice to have STAC, the group supposed to represent the public around these things, involved in the process.

Why proposed deletion of 635-009-0125 thru 635-009-0150?

- Section 1: Deletion of definitions covered in earlier portion of the document; they were/are redundant.
 - D. Grosjacques said people are concerned about cutting out all these deleted things but that they don't understand that those things are still in the rules elsewhere.
- Section 2&3- just streamlining to say that you must fill out the form to apply, not what is on the form so that if board wants to change what's on the application, they can without having the OARs changed every time.
 - R. Lindquist said that the shock factor of these deletions was immense. The summary document was very helpful to explain what was changing functionally.
- Egg incubation and fish program project duration

- R. Lindquist asked what line the PowerPoint slide statements applies to, answer line 207 on the document that the group had sent out to them in their packet. An entire section is now just this line.

Open for questions/comments

S. Janego proposed group take final comments from STAC then break then allow for public comment, board agreed.

D. Grosjacques said thanks to G. Vonderohe because he was kind of “voluntold” to do this and that the board appreciates his efforts. C. Cole agreed and restated the thanks. C. Bennett said a lot of time and effort went into this and that a group he is a part of had a lot of concerns and had asked for this process to be halted until concerns could be addressed. He continued that he hopes everyone will be happy with this process and that concerns will be addressed. Pointed out that this isn’t the end of the process yet and this is just one step. Wanted to thank everyone for their time put into this. D. Grosjacques said it was 12 teleconferences. S. Janego said there were a lot of public outreaches, and the group has heard a lot of input and thinks we are ready to move forward. S. Janego invited STAC to keep this outreach going. G. Vonderohe reminded everyone that this is for recommendation to the Commission and even then, there will be more input and chance for public comment at the Commission stage. C. Cole asked about timeline and G. Vonderohe said hopefully March. R. Lindquist said that there is always work that can be done and things could be fleshed out more, these are the biggest things he has heard. R. Lindquist asked if the Commission has seen any of this and if department has got any idea of what the Commission is thinking about this? G. Vonderohe said they know that we are working on this but that we have not sent them any documents but that some of them have probably seen them because those things get shared. Said that ODFW is coming to STAC with this “final” document before the next step. Attempt right now is to address all concerns so that there are no big surprises when G. Vonderohe takes this to the Commission. M. Gauvin affirmed that March is the target but it’s still not a hard deadline because complicated items sometimes are presented over two meetings so that the Commission can make an informed decision on a complex topic. The exploratory document is going to be likely three times larger than the final document because we want no surprises and to have everyone have input and understand what is going on and why. D. Grosjacques said that when we first started this Lisa Kingsley (ODFW Administrative Rules Coordinator) was involved last time and asked if she would be involved in this going forward. M. Gauvin said that Kingsley was involved and formatted these rules for the board and will continue to be involved and there will be a DOJ review to make sure all the language is good and up to standards for the OARs. M. Gauvin said he works in rules all the time and that this document made a lot of sense but for people who don’t live in the rules world it can be confusing, that’s why there was summary document made to help people understand the meaning behind all these changes. The document with all the strikeouts removed was also created to help people understand how it is all going to read after the changes are adopted (provided there aren’t any more changes). R. Lindquist wanted to thank the group for making the cleaned-up version because it’s so much easier to read. R. Lindquist acknowledged that there was some risk there and appreciated helping make it more readable. M. Gauvin said that’s why we put the watermark and disclaimer on it so people wouldn’t get confused and think that we were putting out a bunch of different versions. We can provide copies of all the policies referenced in this document if people want it. They are all department policies and can be compiled digitally for people to reference. This will be available upon request. S. Janego reiterated that we’ve had a lot of input. M. Gauvin said that letters of support from groups would be great so that the Commission is aware of public support.

Break

Public Comment on STEP/STAC Rules Presentation

Chair S. Janego called the meeting back to order and asked for public comment.

Richard Heap said the public gets to have influence through STEP to help raise salmon, unique to Oregon through STEP. In terms of the discussion about at-large representatives on the board, he would be nervous about that. When he served on this board, his role was 2-fold. Serve as representative of the public and second to go back to the public and convey information about what happened at the board meetings. An at-large rep wouldn't be accountable to anyone because they don't have an area they have to represent and please. He hopes that people don't forget what STEP is all about because when he was in Nevada, Oregon STEP was the best example of public outreach and volunteer involvement in the F&W programs. Groups around the country try to emulate Oregon's STEP program. Richard said one of the most difficult jobs in ODFW must be STEP biologists because they don't have staff to complete projects, they must get volunteers and public buy-in to support all the projects that they undertake. Richard brought this all back to not having an at-large position but having all representatives be from specific areas.

C. Cole asked about how RH gets hundreds of volunteers to do fin clipping and that on the Rogue they use fin clipping auto trailers. G. Vonderohe said that the auto clipping trailers do go all around the state, but typically the larger hatcheries because we have a limited number of them. Some of our hatcheries don't have large staff numbers so volunteers still help with crowding and corralling the fish. Some smaller hatcheries the trailers can't even get to, so they clip all the fish by hand with staff and volunteers. C. Bennett talked about how hundreds of kids from many classrooms would come and mark 30,000-40,000 fish. R. Lindquist said that sometimes these efforts take a couple of weeks because there's 100,000 fish. C. Cole said the trailer can do 8,000 in an hour. Member of the public said he once did 200 in an hour, everyone laughed.

R. Lindquist about volunteers being a force multiplier: it's got to be in the billions of dollars with all the hours and people helping and that ODFW couldn't get this all done without volunteers.

D. Grosjacques talked about in the past doing a calculation on how many volunteer hours there were and how many fish biologists the volunteers account for, and it was 53 biologists.

C. Bennett circled back and said that he's heard a lot of public comment but that what Richard Heap just said was spot on and if you could capture it and share it with everyone, they would all understand how important these programs and volunteers are. R. Heap added that it's harder and harder to hire seasonals and this work will more and more need to be done with volunteer help. It requires a department willing to work with volunteers and R. Heap recognizes that managing and recruiting and working with volunteers is hard work and that that work needs to be recognized and appreciated.

S. Janego said that when we go to the Commission, we tend to report tangible numbers and money saved by volunteers but that maybe we should also be talking about the intangible, like the effect and magic that happens when you bring kids in and inspire them for a lifetime to care about fish and get communities to feel invested in their natural resources. Said that there is no other program that is shifting the public opinion and buy in and concern for their resources like the STEP program.

Public comment, Joe Janowitz Curry Anadromous Fishermen: Public is always concerned with changes and clarifying the reasoning behind the changes will help the public be more receptive of the changes and will dispel some of the anxiety. The clearer and simpler the better.

Leonard Krug thanked everyone for putting all the time in to work on this. Said that when he first looked at this, he was concerned but is feeling much better now. Said that the summary document wasn't necessarily simple enough for him and if possible, should be made even more simple. Suggested maybe putting a mission statement at the top of the document to summarize the goals. He continued, regarding the at-large position.

Having the mission statement for STEP and talking about cross pollination and having people from other groups to come in and share some ideas and comments. Governor's appointment has been problematic and would like to see STAC having a larger role in the selection process. Leonard continued to background checks: if a school wanted people to undergo multiple, various background checks, maybe we could streamline that a bit. D. Grosjacques said that it was strange to have to have a background check after volunteering for 30 years, said that you don't have a choice because it's a legal thing. Leonard said that R. Lindquist made a good point on the STAC group that stepping up to the plate and offering some opinion to the Commission on these topics would be good.

D. Grosjacques thanked the members of the public for their participation and all their volunteer work and involvement. R. Lindquist reiterated the thanks and said it shows that we have public involvement and members of the group reiterated that.

Dave Kuehn online commented that he wanted to commend everyone on a job well done. Said he had a lot of questions coming into this but that the discussion and presentation helped a lot. Talked about what they do as a STEP group in Brookings at another meeting and everyone was amazed. Shared the mission statement that they are a STEP group tasked with assisting ODFW STEP priorities. Expressed that people need to know what the STEP groups do and be aware of what other STEP groups are doing as well. Feels much better about where STEP is going as a program.

Leonard shared a South Coast Fishermen newsletter from angling group and said that he would also like to know what other STEP groups are up to and working on. R. Lindquist said the annual report details these things and is very detailed with how many volunteer hours there have been and what they were working on.

Joe Janowitz shared a draft of their most recent newsletter. Talked about snout recovery program. R. Lindquist added more information about the snout recovery program. Talked about not enough snouts being recovered so they put out snout recovery boxes for anglers to leave their fish snouts from the fish that they caught. Helped a lot and got numbers up.

Levi Simmons asked about STEP groups names. D. Grosjacques said that some STEP groups have "STEP" in their name, and some groups have debated whether they are STEP groups. D. Grosjacques continued, this issue is still contentious with some, he doesn't think there is a definition of what a STEP group is in ODFW policy. G. Vonderohe said that he's had discussions on this with agency people and that if you are working with ODFW and working on STEP projects, you are a STEP group.

Mary Duncan said earlier we were talking about mini-grants and in the future there needs to be more resources. Kids Don't Float has been all up and down the coast and kiosks have been put up all over the place to provide children's life jackets at boat ramps. Said that it is an honor system and that people use and return the jackets. M. Olson said there might be OSMB funds for that. S. Janego said we can connect the dots there and get the request to the right people. Said that we have a lot of things going on around the state and sometimes the left and right hand aren't talking, and communication would help increase the opportunities to collaborate and not duplicate work and energy exertion towards projects. It would be great to have a website or place that groups can read about what the others are doing. Said that he (SJ) said that he joked with Herkamp about STAC writing themselves a grant for a webmaster to make a website to get the word out.

Leonard: Do we need to define what a STEP group or program is? And if so, maybe the mission statement would be a good place to put that? D. Grosjacques said that debate was had with Umpqua Fishermen over a year and the conclusion was no, shouldn't do it. D. Grosjacques said a few people in the Umpqua Fisherman don't want them to be called a STEP group, but they are and that defining a STEP group isn't needed. Joe said he disagreed and that we should define it. R. Lindquist asked Leonard where it would be defined, and he responded it would be in the mission statement. D. Grosjacques said that we have volunteers that aren't

members of fishing clubs show up to help for a day and that's okay. They sign paperwork and volunteer and that's that. Said what a club wants to call themselves is up to the club, not ODFW. S. Janego said maybe a way to look at it is that STEP is a vehicle to get work done. No matter how diverse we are, we all embrace the goal of helping our fisheries and fish. Whether groups identify as a STEP group or not they are people helping fish.

G. Vonderohe Started conversation about next steps for these rules. Asked the board what they would like. R. Lindquist said he wants more of these "for dummies" documents. M. Gauvin said if we dumb it down too much, people will accuse us of hiding things. Maybe we could provide the full text and then a summary to go with it. Showing where things are cross walked. R. Lindquist said he isn't asking for another briefer, but just line items that show the links between other policies.

Group thanked Gary again for his hard work on this. S. Janego said let's take this positive feedback and synthesize it into a document and STAC take it upon themselves to get the word out to their groups, get more feedback and incorporate it and then come up with a "final" draft of what STAC is comfortable with. M. Gauvin said we can have an interim board meeting after a couple of months of letting the board get more feedback from their areas. S. Janego asked if everyone was comfortable with that idea and the group liked it. M. Gauvin asked if the at-large candidate topic could be resolved at the next meeting. S. Janego said sharing the feedback that was provided here today with regional groups would be good to help us get to a decision on that.

Break

STAC/STEP Updates

Chair S. Janego resumed meeting at 1:02PM.

C. Cole Upper Rogue: Had a lot of fires, Rum Fire in this area. Burned 22k acres. Bureau of Land Management has a group of geologists coming up with a plan to minimize erosion. The Bear Creek Salmon Festival is returning, first time since 2019. Festival is to teach public about wildlife habitat and teach people how to be good stewards of the land. Lots of family activities. The Middle Rogue Steelheaders Derby, first time on the Rogue River, was a huge success, 58 people joined. Thinks there will be 75-100 next year. The fundraiser is done by the Steelheaders and raised \$18,000 which is going to be used on various conservation and restoration projects. Eggs to Fry Program will be taking place next week, aquariums in 60 schools, 90 different classrooms. Cole Rivers hatchery still needs repairs to the filtration system and electrical system. Sounds like wiring won't be done until the spring. Cole River is still producing fish for the Umpqua River, there was shut down last year due to the fires. Springer run was not bad this year, winter steelhead wasn't great, summer steelhead is going strong, well over 10-year average. Group netted 450 salmon and steelhead this year, double what they've done in the past and the fish seem to be bigger this year. One of the fish was 40 pounds, that fish was released back into the water because it was wild. This occurred right below the hatchery in a side channel. Springer egg production was a little low this year because of high mortality rate of the adults. Normally get 2.5M eggs, this year we are just a little below that, should still hit the mark. Got 1 coho at the hatchery this year. Got 6 sockeye in the trap this year, not common for the area. Thought is that they are strays from the Columbia River. South Coast Multi-Species Plan: now allowed to have 35,000 fish for acclimation, so they put 35,000 fish. Neat program, everyone likes to help with it. When you see guides focusing on areas like these where you are releasing fish, you know it's working. Probably only going to do a couple of carcass placements this year. D. Grosjacques added that the derby was awesome and most of the work was done by Carl, and he thanked Carl for this.

C. Bennett Coos-Coquille: In the first part of June, juvenile releases, got permission to haze cormorants. Hazing was moving the boat over the water and using noise devices. Didn't see a lot of cormorant activity in the area they were hazing, saw lots of juvenile salmonids though and happy to see that. Permitting is likely to be approved in other areas soon. Got to participate in e-fishing, 6,000 smallmouth bass removed from the Coquille River system and about 30 stripers. Fundraiser derby this year was modified, 1.5 days of fishing, 176 tickets sold, ~20 fish checked in, raised \$15,000 with ticket sales and sponsors. Already started a committee for next year and will do barbecue, silent auction and more. Trap on the Coquille is in place, already 30 females in the trap. Waiting for rain, some spawning events planned (five). Classrooms of kids want to come out and see/help. Expressed that COVID was biggest challenge because they couldn't meet. Couldn't have classrooms of kids come out and learn about and help with fin clipping. This year one teacher already wants to bring out 75 kids in one day, going to be awesome to bring this part of the program back. Getting volunteers has been difficult, meeting sizes have been down by about a third. Every derby ticket or packet sold resulted in sending out a letter to tell the people how they can volunteer and get involved with South Coast Anglers. The derby committee that is meeting is going to send out thank you letters to everyone who participated and gave to the cause. C. Cole said they also sent out thank-yous and asked people for pointers on how to improve the derby.

R. Lindquist South Coast: Starting with the bad, creek water here is nonexistent. The returns to the hatcheries have been zero, they can't get up the creeks. Because of this they are collecting brood in the rivers. Got 100 yesterday, hopefully more today. They have been bringing smolts down to put in Ferry Creek. Also had a salmon derby, it was 4 days, got 32 fish in 4 days. 108 people and made \$10,000. Our \$10,000 will fund 4 months. Been dredging here, going on all summer. Has been needed for about 5 years. They are removing 300,000 yards of material (30,000 dump truck loads). The fish have been deep right on the bottom because of the cold water down there and warm water on top. Has brought in Dungeness crab which they have never had in the river. Down in Brookings, they take their steelhead and have chrome challenge, like a derby, they have volunteers catch steelhead and they are allowed to put them in pens in their boats and they put them in pens in the river and then ODFW picks them up and takes them as broodstock. Everyone who participates fills out a tag and then there is a giveaway of a fishing rod and reel from the raffle. Pretty unique and cool. Also done on the Umpqua and the Siletz. Had 3rd graders come out to the lakes out here and learn how to cast and tie knots and put them on the lake and let them fish. They stock legal to 10-pound brooders for them to fish for. The kids here loved it, but you would be surprised how many kids have never picked up a fishing rod. 6th grade class came over here, alternative school from Medford that came here to spend a week and for one day come out to fish, very positive. R. Lindquist said the girl that was with him had real emotional problems and gets frustrated, but her first fish was one of those 10 pounders and after that she couldn't be stopped, wanted to keep fishing and was super happy and enthusiastic. Gave Roger a hug and high five and was super happy. Talking about the brood collection and how it's not happening but as of 30th of September the 5-year average is 600 kings, we now have 278 from Huntley seining crew. Half pounders 2900 is the 5-year average, 516 is this year's number. Coho, normally 29, this year 71. Adult Steelhead 281 is the 10-year average, 145 so far this year. Wrapped up with a peanuts cartoon. Having a heck of a time getting volunteers here in Gold Beach. Several deaths over the last couple of years. Meeting yesterday had five people not counting board members and that was a pretty good meeting. Looking at having meetings on different days to attract more people, younger people. Going to have meeting at community center on the free breakfast day. Have done mailers, but the person that normally does those is going through a medical issue right now, serious. Group talked about how everyone is kind of struggling with volunteer recruitment. C. Cole said they have 30 new members though. C. Bennett shared that volunteer recognition helps with retention. C. Cole said he writes an article every month for the newsletter and features a volunteer and that people love seeing their name or photo and is a great way to thank them.

J. Eubank Mid Coast: Salmon River hatchery went dry over the summer to do a bunch of repairs and improvements. Kids fishing derby at Olalla Lake, with a bunch of trophy trout from Salmon River Hatchery. Put fish into a netted off area and there is a picture of a little boy who caught a 7-pound trout in red power rangers pajamas. Does a lot for them and does a lot for us. Reminded her why she does this work. Salmon River Hatchery just got a new screen that is on a timer. On Tuesday the fish decided they were coming into the trap anyway. 300 fish sent to food bank, 15 to brood stock. They try to hit 400 coho a year to send upstream, already surpassed that this year. 1 chum so far. 2 pinks came thru and were able to be spawned. Spawning starts next Wednesday; Jessica gets to help with that. The Schooner trap had a bridge that a landslide took out. The bridge is used to get to the trap, but R&E emergency funds were acquired to move the bridge back into place. Trap was able to be cleaned out, 4 hours of shoveling silt. As for volunteers, Christine Clapp was with us earlier but had to hop off, she is the STEP bio from Newport has fishing club Longview Fishing Club and it has been a huge part of the volunteers there. You must live in a certain gated community to join the club so unfortunately Jessica can't be a member, but they do a lot of great work and helps kids pick out beads and make spinners. Huge part of the STEP program there. S. Janego asked about the Yaquina and Alsea. Want to know the return rates of fish on those rivers. Most recent data they can find is 2018, what about the last 3 years? M. Gauvin said we are a little delayed on getting the data online because in 2018 is when we got the ELS system in place. We get number that we use in season to determine run returns and we need to hone in our calculations before publishing them. Michelle Jones is working on this (ODFW Biometrician). J. Eubank said bright fish at the Alsea lately. M. Gauvin said the return numbers should be released in the next year probably.

D. Grosjacques Umpqua: Start with welcome to Jessica, thank you for being here. Told a story about thinking he had a steelhead, but it was a pikeminnow and buddy got candid photo of Dave holding up the pikeminnow and they put it on the front page of a fishing newsletter. Umpqua district bio and assistant bio were STEP bios and Levi is the new STEP bio. Right at I-5 where Umpqua passes there is a dam and work is going to be done, fish count comes from this facility with video monitoring making sure no damage done to the fish. Diamond Lake had so many invasive fish they nuked it in 2006 or 2007. Tui Chub. They got into Lemolo Reservoir, as well downstream. Saw guy remove two 55-gallon tubs of tui chub from just 24 hours of trapping. R&E funded hiring of two employees to help monitor and remove invasives in Diamond Lake. Fishing there has been better now. Late Friend suggested putting brown trout in Diamond Lake to eat the tui chub, now 10 years after his passing ODFW put brown trout and tiger trout in the lake and it's working. Dave works with two STEP groups and talked to them recently they got 65 Chinook pairs. A huge issue now is Rock Creek Hatchery that burned down. What they have been doing is using Cole Rivers and Elk River Hatchery to raise the fish that would have been raised at Rock Creek. Scott Patterson (ODFW Hatchery coordinator) came to R&E to explain the options for Rock Creek Hatchery. Public engagement process will start soon. There are groups in Roseburg area completely against the rebuilding of Rock Creek. This week went on tour into Rock Creek drainage and looked at the basin. The fire scorched it and they got to see it. If the whole basin burned, question is what does that do to the water quality? Overall water temperature hasn't changed all that much, and the numbers of fish hasn't really been affected either. Hopefully we can keep going with Rock Creek hatchery. Levi Simmons is the STEP bio and can say more about their programs. Coho broodstock is being collected at the base of Galesville Dam on Cow Creek in about 3 weeks or so. Tribe has acclimation pond in Canyonville, we put steelhead in there and feed them for a while and let them go. There is another acclimation pond like this in the area. CWT study was done with steelhead smolts to see if they should be trucked down from hatchery and then released or put them in a raceway, feed them, acclimate them to the water for a few weeks and then let them go. Keeping them and feeding seems to be better so far. Dave got to take eggs into some classrooms at school he used to teach at recently, planned to stay only for 5 minutes, but kids were so excited and had so many questions he was there for 45 minutes. Dave realized he had some of the kids' parents as his own students at that school! Lots of problems with Chinook on Umpqua. You can

no longer keep wild spring Chinook because of extremely low numbers in the South Umpqua. Fishing events for kids: fishing event at local youth pond. This couldn't be done during COVID but will hopefully resume this winter. Talked to the kids about how famous the Umpqua Rivers are, people come from all around to fish them. Dave talked about volunteer recruitment issues. For several fishing clubs the volunteer pool is basically the board of directors of those clubs. Not enough members to have a general meeting. Leadership just takes turns on who gets what position and its duties. There is talk about merging two fly fishing clubs in Southern Oregon to get numbers up. Dave talked about how impressed he is with C. Cole and his report that they are getting more volunteers. C. Cole said they do a lot of community service work and that's how they get a lot of people to join in and help.

S. Janego Eastern Oregon: majority of time is taking care of invasives, chub and bullheads. Floated idea to OSU that instead of taking fish to the woods for the bears what if there was a market to sell the fish for fish food or people food or fertilizer. C. Cole said one place will take them for mulch for fertilizer. S. Janego said what if there was a profit motive by allowing private industry to come and collect the fish to use for something else. If the problem persists, it might make more and more sense. Spring Creek Pond at Camp Sherman had a couple of events. Bussed kids out and had fishing events. Had some great experiences like those shared today. Amazing how many kids have never picked up a fishing pole and very heartwarming to see their excitement. Kokanee Power anglers are donating money for nets for collecting tui chub. Stocking 10,000 brook trout per high lake. Jen Luke was disappointed about cancelling kokanee carnival where they get the kids out and go through a clinic but couldn't find enough volunteers. Teachers were very disappointed and students too. Shortage of volunteers seems to be a recurring problem. Talked about how do we get STEP to be the sought-after volunteer activity across the state? We're fighting Trout Unlimited, not really fighting but volunteer base only has a limited number of hours and people are going to these other clubs. Might be a topic for STAC to talk about volunteer recruitment. There's no water out East. Shared picture sent to Marty. S. Janego sent a letter to the OSMB about how climate change is here to stay, and we can't get boats into the lakes, and everyone is concentrated in just a handful of lakes. About 70% of them are dry. Ochoco is just a creek, Wickiup and Crescent are almost empty. Haystack and Clear Lake are almost empty and Prineville too. S. Janego said he heard that the only reason Crane Prairie has water is because there are resorts on it. Working on Eggs to Fry in the classrooms, all that good stuff but still wondering how to pull more volunteers to work on projects. The face of what we do as a volunteer base is different now, not sure what to do about it. J. Eubank said maybe going to community college or HS biology classes to tell them about volunteer opportunities that teachers could offer extra credit for. D. Grosjacques said as a former teacher, the kids who are a pain in the neck in the classroom are the ones that do the best out in the outdoor schools. S. Janego said that some groups have online signups where people can just click on the times that they are available. J. Eubank said social media is a great way to get that out too. M. Davies pointed out that younger people don't own boats, have a lot of school debt, live with their parents, and don't fish. We need to get them into fishing by taking them fishing and getting them into the sport. It's hard to recruit volunteers who don't fish.

M. Parks and John Cox North Willamette: In Eggs to Fry right now, have workshop this weekend. Going to provide opportunity for new educators and existing who want refresher. Coordinating with volunteers for egg delivery day. 146 requests for eggs, each one is one tank. 71 schools will be getting eggs. 21 volunteers from different groups. 18,000 eggs will be delivered next week. Delivering just over 29,000 eggs. Have been doing a mix of virtual and in person events. Family fishing events this year, got a couple of them going after none for the last couple years. Did some this spring and will do more this coming spring. Usually there are 8-9 in spring and a couple in the fall. This summer we did a couple with other groups. Get Hooked Fishing was one of the groups/events. Open to anyone and catch bluegill in the summer. John helps with I'm Hooked which is another group that gets confused with Get Hooked, but they have a nice system at a pond that has aeration and allows for fishing thru the summer. Horning's Hideout is where this was happening. Just wrapped up last

week a veterans fishing event to West Salish Pond and the temperature turned just enough that they were able to stock the pond and every veteran that came out caught a fish. Volunteers helped at all the events. Spring Chinook program out of Corvallis has been PIT tagging fish to investigate return rates, this year has been good for the Molalla, at least a few hundred returned. Eagle Creek acclimation pond released 100,000 winter steelhead this year. Foster Creek acclimation pond on the Clackamas had 50,000 winter steelhead. Additionally, steelhead have been released at Bull Run Creek acclimation pond. Great collection at broodstock collection at Bull Run this year, about 2,000 adults returned to that weir, most ever. John has been doing steelhead spawning surveys in the Upper Willamette to get better numbers in the Yamhill and Tualatin basins above the Willamette Falls. Over 20 different reaches are surveyed. Very challenging this year with all the rain, lots of blown out streams. Several small-scale habitat projects around the area have been done, like Christmas tree placement. Putting in more Keep Oregon Rivers Clean line recycling stations where birds and other wildlife have been impacted by abandoned fishing line and trash. It has been harder to get volunteers from the traditional groups that were source for people. Eggs to Fry used to be almost all Steelheaders, now much lower numbers and finding more volunteers from Trout Unlimited and other groups. It's hard to match up volunteers with times like middle of the week. Younger people are only available on the weekend, and that's not when we work consistently.

Rachel Ellison Updates from STEP volunteer activities in the S. Willamette Valley:

- Everyone's favorite...high lakes backpack stocking! A lot of volunteers got out with us this year to help transport fish to the high lakes. Many thanks from Jeremy and Martyne for all the help to get this project completed this year!
- Leaburg Fish Sorter Project: ODFW staff and STEP volunteers passed a record number of Wild Chinook over the sorter this year and maintained a percent hatchery origin spawners (PHOS) of less than 5%!
- Helped McKenzie Hatchery staff spawn Chinook at Leaburg Hatchery. Included snout collection for CWTs, genetic clipping, and carcass running.
- Stream enrichment: volunteers transported spawned-out Chinook carcasses back to their reaches to return the marine derived nutrients to the McKenzie River.
- Bulk marking project (fondly called the "PIT tagging rodeo")
 - Partnership between ODFW, USACE, EAS, and STEP volunteers
 - We PIT tagged 3,600 Chinook smolts at Leaburg hatchery.
 - These fish are slated to be released in the South Fork McKenzie River to track outmigration and return to the McKenzie basin.

S. Janego said how nice it is to hear these updates and that it helps know what people are up to.

ACTION ITEM: S. Emerson can put the region updates as their own thing on the meeting materials page of the STAC meeting page.

Open STAC Position / Future Recruitment

M. Olson talked about the open STAC position on the North Coast and how much has been done to get the word out about it and try to solicit some applications. Group asked how far in advance we can post these positions, M. Gauvin said they are always open but about 6 months out is a good time frame. Mike talked about Morgan's first term ending soon too and we need to talk about if she wants to serve another term. R.

Lindquist asked if there was a decrease in time for how long it takes to get appointed now. J. Eubank said it took hers 9 months. M. Gauvin said D. Grosjacques, and C. Cole's didn't take too long.

Group discussed different ideas for going forward. Could have STAC members take people under their wing in their last year. Could have them work on reaching out to recruit someone near the end of their terms. Could reach out to STEP bios and STEP hatcheries.

STEP Annual Report to the Commission

Haven't done an update in a couple of years partly because of COVID. M. Olson is going to be reaching out to STEP bios to fill in their sections so we can present at the December Commission meeting. Group needs to talk about who is going to show up to present on behalf of STAC. R. Lindquist said this is going to be like our region reports but way more detailed because of hours reported value, projects, etc.

Commission meeting would be December 16th. Just for clarification, STAC has submitted annual report to the Commission the last two years but has not presented to the Commission because of time constraints.

S. Janego asked how bold to be in the presentation to the Commission. M. Gauvin said send the Commission what's going to be covered and said ahead of time so they can prepare. D. Grosjacques remarked that a STEP bio meeting would be great to educate people about the program and when a commissioner was invited for an hour, they learned so much about the program. M. Gauvin said these are the board's meetings and we can invite commissioners if the board would like to. Also, nice to invite the STEP bios. Salem tends to be the best location because it is central for most. J. Eubank said that Christine Clapp has talked about how a STEP Bio meeting would be beneficial.

R&E Report from D. Grosjacques

R&E gets \$4M-\$5M in funding from license dollars, sport, and commercial poundage fee. STEP gets money from SFR. D. Grosjacques explained what kind of criteria are looked at when deciding how to allocate the money and what makes a project a good or bad fit for R&E funding. He explained that R&E line items include STEP fish food, STAC mini-grant money, construction manager, etc. Asked M. Gauvin what the funding for next biennium will look like. M. Gauvin explained that most of those static line items are about the same. There has been some discussion like today about modifying some amounts like the \$50,000 for STAC mini-grants. D. Grosjacques talked about how many requests to R&E from ODFW are over \$100,000. Has some concern that all the money will be eaten up by ODFW facilities. M. Gauvin explained that the restoration portion of Restoration and Enhancement refers to restoring hatcheries and fish facilities, not habitat restoration. M. Gauvin explained that terminology in the 80's was different than it is today and that's what restoration was referring to. M. Gauvin also explained that ODFW is working to prioritize their asks so that we don't see a ton of RM&E requests from different ODFW districts and that allows space for outside groups to also ask for money and that ODFW is actively encouraging outside groups to apply for this money.

Develop Operational Guidelines Document

Group discussed a high-level overview of this. Does group want to form a subcommittee to develop such a document? S. Janego explained this would be a guide of how STAC does things. It's a collection of ideas and comments on how to operate. These would be developed by STAC for STAC. S. Janego asked if anyone would volunteer to help with such an undertaking. J. Eubank said she would like to be involved and help, said she wouldn't want to take point. S. Janego said he'd be willing to join the team, asked if S. Emerson would be

willing to be the glue to get it all together like merging documents. D. Grosjacques volunteered to help. S. Emerson said he would be happy to help, and M. Gauvin said it would be good for M. Olson to also be involved to keep everything on track and provide guidance.

ACTION ITEM: Steve and Marty discuss if S. Emerson has time/bandwidth to help with this.

Volunteer Awards/Swag

Group came up with some ideas: Day pack bags. Car windshield sunscreens. Reusable grocery bags. Neck gaiters for cold weather. Nicer hats that aren't all wrinkled. Button-up shirts, somewhere between the Columbia shirt and a t-shirt. SPF Shirts. T-shirts. Kids art contest for design for shirts. Beer glasses. Laser engraved beer glasses. Patches, ways to put STEP logos on things. STEP tablecloths for fishing derbies and events. Squishy fish like warmwater squishy bass. ODFW can supply popup tents with STEP logos for events. Fish cleaning board with STEP logo. Charcuterie board with STEP logo.

ACTION ITEM: See table below and schedule: Keep updating PPT map with where we meet.

Mini-Grant Deadline	STAC Meeting	STAC Meeting Location
	May 23 2023	Redmond/Sisters? S. Emerson will call next week and see what's available at Per Diem Rates (Best Western, Ponderosa Lodge, others)
	October 2023	Recommend OHRC C. Bennett will make calls and report back

Motion: C. Bennett motioned to approve the schedule, D. Grosjacques seconded, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15PM