

HERITAGE NEWS

Summer 2005

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DIAMOND LAKE



Diamond Lake with Mt. Thielsen in the background

BACKGROUND

Diamond Lake, once called the "Gem of the Cascades", was a place where families gathered for generations to fish, camp, hike, and relax. Diamond Lake's crystal blue waters and large rainbow trout were the main attractions.

In the early 1950's, tui chub, a minnow species common in the Klamath Basin, were used as live fish bait which was legal at the time. Chub found the shallow waters and plentiful food sources of Diamond Lake to their liking, and the population exploded. Chub out-competed trout for food, caused algae blooms, and degraded the lake's water quality.

In 1954, the then Oregon Game Commission dug a canal at the lake's north end, drained it by eight feet, and treated the remaining water with powdered rotenone to kill all fish. Within two years, the lake was once again supporting a large zooplankton population and rainbow trout were restocked.

Angling, camping, boating and other recreation resumed for 40 years, with an average of 100,000 people per year using Diamond Lake for fishing alone. The three major campgrounds surrounding the lake, comprising 446 camp sites, were typically full.

However, tui chub again showed up at Diamond Lake in an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seine net in 1992. Within a decade, the chub population grew to millions while water quality and the recreational rainbow trout fishery crashed.

continued on page 5



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Events. Pg 2 & 3
Diamond Lake (cont'd) . Pg 5

2005 ProjectsPg 4 & 5

Willamette Salmon Quest



The Willamette Salmon Quest was held April 16th. Fifty-seven boatmen and guides donated their time, equipment and expertise to one-hundred forty-one anglers. Together they caught forty-nine Spring Chinook!

The fish were measured in inches, each inch being a point. The awards were given to:

Biggest fish Jerry Toman 38.5

1st Place Team 128.75

*David Johnson
Larry Cassidy
Dan Persons*

2nd Place Team 103

*Gary Geis
Dave Sill
Patrick Wright*

3rd Place Team 102

*Russ Morrow
Jim Maxwell
Scott Hippe*

During the evening event, the auction was paused and Foundation Director Jim Martin made a plea for all concerned anglers to make a donation that will be used to stock the fish for kids fishing opportunities. Answering that request, \$14,000 was raised that night.

The proceeds of this years event will help leverage funding for kids fishing opportunities and more projects on the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers.

The 2006 Quest will be on Saturday, April 22. *If you would like to participate, give us a call at 503-255-6059, and we will make sure you receive an invitation.*



Salmon Quest Golf Classic



The 7th Salmon Quest Golf Classic is on schedule for Thursday, September 8th at The Reserve Golf & Vineyard in Aloha.

The limit is 140 players in a scramble format ensuring a smooth and enjoyable day of golf.

The registration fee of \$200 per golfer includes an afternoon of golf, tee prizes, golf cart, special events, lunch, buffet dinner, auction and raffle.

SCHEDULE

Registration	10:30 a.m.
Lunch	11:30-12:30
Shotgun Start	1:00 p.m.
Dinner/ Raffle	6:00 p.m.



The proceeds of the 2005 Golf Classic will assist the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation with supporting kids fishing opportunities and projects with partners that also believe in the importance of protecting Oregon's fish & Wildlife.

Come join us! Send this completed form with registration fee to:

OWHF/PO Box 30406/Portland, OR 97294

Player Registration Form

Please give complete information for each player

Maximum handicap: Women 36 Men 32

Name: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

FOUNDATION PROJECTS

The Foundation ended calendar year 2004 funding \$1,580,528 in projects. This figure includes the Clackamas and Clear Creek in-stream projects.

Kids Fishing Camp

The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation continues to help support the kids summer fish camp of the American Hellenic Educational Center. The camps take place at Camp Angelos along the Sandy River. Campers from ages ten to sixteen fish for trout in the camp pond. They also learn how to make their own rods, bait hooks, cast, fish, and care for their catch. The campers are selected to attend camp on the merits of a submitted written essay entitled, "Why I Want To Learn To Fish".

Northern Red-Legged Frogs and Their Friends



Northern Red
Legged Frog

The OWHF Project Committee approved a grant to help survey and collect data for Northern Red Legged frogs, as well as other pond breeding amphibians. The study will help determine species presence and use of two ponds; Ruby Lake and Wapato Pond on the adjacent Burlington Bottoms. According to ODFW's report, the surveys also documented habitat information in-

cluding native and non-native plant species used for egg deposition and water levels.

The conclusion of the survey was that the Northern Red Legged Frogs and other native pond breeding amphibians were using both ponds for breeding activity. A high percentage of egg masses were found attached to the invasive reed Canary Grass at both ponds. The data collected will contribute to the knowledge of how species are using the wetlands for breeding activity and will help land managers to more effectively manage and restore habitat for

PIT Tagging Native Trout

The McKenzie River Guide Association and the ODFW are in the process of establishing baseline population data for the McKenzie River Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout.

They will be utilizing Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) technology. These PIT tags may last as long as seventy-five years and use no internal batteries, while using a radio frequency device that transmits a one of a kind code to a reader where it is then displayed. Tags will allow the fish to be individually marked and their movements tracked with out recapture.

The Foundation Project Committee approved a grant to help purchase project supplies including the purchase of PIT tags and PIT tag readers.

Generator Replacement

The Foundation Project Committee approved and Director Scott Richmond helped the North Umpqua Foundation with the purchase of a new generator needed at their fish watch trailer on Steamboat Creek. The Umpqua Foundation has volunteers that stay at the fish watch trailer twenty-four hours a day overlooking the summer steelhead resting pools to ensure they are not vandalized.

Pictured below: 200 steelhead holding in Steamboat Creek



DIAMOND LAKE (con'td from pg 1)

Angler days decreased dramatically to a low of 6,000 in 1999. The fishery, which used to annually contribute approximately \$3.5 million to the economy of Southwest Oregon now contributes just \$350,000 per year (Carter, ODFW 2002).

*Visitor use at the three major campgrounds also declined 37% to 60% depending on the site. In addition, toxic "algae" (*Anagaeana flox-aquae*) blooms forced lake closures over parts of three summers to protect public health.*

THE CURRENT EIS PROCESS

In May 2002, ODFW and the Umpqua National Forest, along with State Representative Susan Morgan hosted a technical forum that brought together experts in many fields to address many topics related to Diamond Lake including fisheries, recreation, rotenone, economics, and water quality.

A Project Working Group was then created to explore solutions to the lake's declining water quality and fisheries and help return it to a "swimmable, fishable" lake. The group included representatives from ODFW, USFWS, Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Economic and Community Development, Oregon Division of State Lands, Douglas County, and Representative Morgan.

The Umpqua National Forest took the lead on developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and ODFW and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality later signed on as official cooperators to create a Draft EIS that was released in spring 2004.

Many scientific data gaps were identified and filled, including an accurate map of the lake, nutrient budget and water budget. Current invertebrate populations were recorded along with an analysis of changes over time. Estimates of fish biomass and distribution were made, and a study was conducted to determine the feasibility of using aeration as a potential short-term solution to address algae blooms.

Much more research was completed and many public meetings and correspondence ensued over the two years it took to complete a final EIS. The final EIS was released in November 2004 and the Umpqua National Forest Supervisor issued his Record of Decision, choosing Alternative 5, on December 20, 2004.

Under Alternative 5, the project proposes canal reconstruction to facilitate a lake draw down, mechanical removal of fish biomass, rotenone application, removal and processing of fish carcasses, and restocking of the lake with trout by ODFW. In addition, educational and monitoring activities and planned contingency measures are in place for controlling tui chub if they are reintroduced to Diamond lake in the future.

Canal reconstruction began in summer 2005, draw down of the lake would occur during the fall and winter 2005/2006, rotenone treatment in fall 2006, and restocking the lake in the Spring of 2007.



native amphibians and other species.

Houses of a Smaller Nature...

The Cully Association of Neighbors (CAN) in northeast Portland are holding their third annual school/community clean up and birdhouse building at Rigler Elementary School September 14, 2005.

The birdhouses are distributed to low income families in the community (many of which do not have the opportunity to visit Oregon's great outdoors) to attract wildlife into their own backyards.

The Foundation provided monetary support to the "Green Rigler Project", a Rigler SUN School outreach program, to purchase materials and equipment to build about sixty birdhouses.



I'M COMMITTED TO RESTORING OREGONS NATURAL HABITATS!

I want to become a member of an organization that is taking real action to restore natural habitats and support fish and wildlife projects!

My membership contribution is enclosed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guarantor.....\$1,000+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting..... \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor..... 500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual..... 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron..... 250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other..... \$_____ |
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Name _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Phone/FAX/E-mail _____

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Mail to:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Phone:	(503) 255-6059
	PO Box 30406	FAX:	(503) 255-6467
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