

# **TIDEGATE RETROFIT PROJECT #96-018**

by  
COQUILLE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MONITORING REPORT  
April 2006



Hatchet Slough Tidegate  
2006

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Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the Coquille Watershed Association at 450 Highway 42 East, Coquille, OR 97423.  
Phone (541) 396-2229 for more information.

## Background Information

As mentioned in previous year's reports, we no longer report on the Red Creek Tidegate. This land has been purchased by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a wildlife refuge. The tidegate will no longer serve any purpose there and will be used or replaced with a new one of comparable size to be used on a different project. The goals for the Hatchet Slough Tidegate project were a benefit to the Coquille Watershed and the landowners surrounding the mouth and lower areas of Hatchet Slough. For the landowners, the tidegate lid closes when the tide gets to a certain height. This allows water into the slough without flooding the agricultural fields. The lid is only closed for a short amount of time, not allowing fish to pass through at these times. When the lid is open at all, fish are able to swim freely in either direction.

## Hatchet Slough Tidegate-

Oftentimes, the status of a project cannot be fully appreciated by simply looking at it a few times throughout the year. Discussions with landowners often reveal important and unseen facts about a project. The landowners at this site are happy with the project from a field drainage aspect. Also, they have kept an eye on the tidegate and lid and have not seen any problems with the structure. CWA staff can see the inlet of the culvert and the channel upstream when driving by. Visually observing this at certain tides can indicate a working or a malfunctioning tidegate.



Tidegate Lid, Outlet, Animal Crossing



Hatchet Slough Inlet

### **Maintenance Performed/Costs Associated with Maintenance& Monitoring**

No maintenance has been done on this tidegate over the past year. Our monitoring has been limited as well, due to funding throughout the year of 2005. We keep in touch with the landowners to ensure any needs are met in terms of maintenance. Like last year, monitoring of this project has been limited to site visits, photo taking, and report writing, totaling about \$515.

### **Project Assessment**

Currently, there is little known about various tidegates and how they function compared to one another. We don't monitor aspects such as flow but we often do visual checks so we at least know if and when there is a problem with the lid. At this time, the project is working properly for fish movement, as well as field drainage.

### **Public Awareness**

We've participated in various public awareness events including the Powers Fishing Derby, the Fly-Fishing Expo, the Coos County Fair, school Science Fairs, and numerous school presentations. Our board would like to see more educational activities so we are working towards more involvement with local schools. Our projects committee recently discussed the possibility of an educational project along a creek we've never done work on before. This will continue to be a discussion in upcoming weeks. We continue to publish our quarterly newsletter and we hold monthly committee and council meetings which are open to the public.

### **Expected Outcome / Results**

Our expected outcome for this project is to have a functioning structure that allows fields to drain, giving landowners fields they can graze without constantly having them underwater. In addition, we expect to allow fish passage at almost any time during the tide cycles. We expect salmonids to continue to use this system to travel up to the tributaries of Hatchet Creek for spawning. Past spawning surveys have proven this to be the case.