

OREGON WILDLIFE, in its December 1980 issue, examines the Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) in British Columbia in comparison to Oregon's proposed STEP (Salmon Trout Enhancement Program) — a proposal awaiting legislative action in the 1981 session. Oregon's STEP is comparable to the public involvement portion of SEP, the other portions of SEP such as hatcheries and stream clearance being covered in the regular Oregon fisheries budget. Installation of streamside incubation facilities to hatch

salmon eggs, while failing to produce increased numbers of fish coming back into B.C. streams, has had a thought-provoking side effect. "The citizens who have been handling the eggs have now become involved in looking at their streams and in examining what has been happening to the habitat," writes author Ron Shay. "Folks who are trying to hatch eggs become extremely irate if a great gob of silt from roadbuilding smothers their eggs. Basically a new awareness has evolved ... It has been estimated that 85 percent of the value of the public involvement portion of the SEP program is its creation of public concern." The article deals with "an impossible management situation — high productivity through enhancement and low productivity because we're wiping out or lowering the natural shock" at the same time. One year earlier, an article by Harry Wagner entitled "Why the Wild Coho" made the December 1979 issue of *Oregon Wildlife* much sought after by resource managers. That article covers laws and policy, culture and aesthetics, economics and biology, and states categorically that "wild coho are more diverse genetically and are better adapted — more fit for survival, growth and reproduction in the stream and ocean — than are the progeny of hatchery fish." *Oregon Wildlife* is published monthly and circulated free; write Oregon Wildlife, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, OR 97208.

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