

For the past decade that I've been in Southern Oregon, we've had a mix of good and bad years on salmon/steelhead returns to Cole River Hatchery and sister fish traps on nearby rivers, but overall they've experienced sizeable declines from previous decades. Given our current years return of summers, springers, and a late beginning to our winter run, it scares a lot of individuals regarding the future of a resource that has become a staple of southern Oregon outdoorsman. I have witnessed hatch boxes make a considerable impact on fish populations in northern Oregon and more specifically Rickreall Creek in years past.