



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 31,2015

Trout Unlimited testimony on ODFW proposed budget, SB 5511

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield, Committee members,

I am here today to testify in support of the proposed ODFW budget, representing the 2800 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon. I am here today to voice Trout Unlimited's support for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed budget, SB 5511.

More so now than at any time in it's history, this is a historic moment in the history of ODFW, both in terms of budget and long term strategy. The old model of funding the agency, with license sales and federal excise taxes, is no longer sufficient to provide adequate funding for the conservation mission which ODFW is charged with. Trout Unlimited wants to make sure that ODFW gets the money it needs to continue to protect and restore native wild fish populations. As we face the crisis of drought, over water use and human impact on our environment, now more than ever we need a well-funded fish and wildlife agency with excellent staff to work on all the vast conservation issues ODFW is charged with.

At the same time, as a group composed of anglers (and hunters), Trout Unlimited wants to make sure that ODFW also continues to provide opportunities for Oregonians to hunt and fish. This is important also and we need to provide funding , either general funds or other funding concepts, which will provide for the general conservation needs of fish and wildlife, while hunting/angling license fees and excise taxes goes primarily towards things such as hatcheries.

Now I would like to talk about specific parts of the ODFW budget that TU urges restored to the proposed ODFW budget-

Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program- First of all, and most important of all, TU would like to see the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program funds be restored to the ODFW budget. This \$2.1 million dollars for this program provides staffing and resources for ODFW to help watershed councils and groups such as Trout Unlimited in restoring and protecting our watersheds. This is very important and I hope that money can be added into the ODFW budget to fund this program again.

More funding for the Hatchery Research Center- The Hatchery Research Center is an important tool to be used in recovery of wild fish and looking at ways to negate the negative impact of hatchery fish on wild salmonids. Important funding for this program needs to be restored. In particular we urge that HB 3012 be passed and incorporated into ODFW budget. If that doesn't happen, TU asks for more General Money for the Hatchery Research Center.

The ODFW Conservation Strategy- This program also needs to have funding restored. This is an important program that helps fund the Conservation Strategy, which provides guidelines, staff and assistance in recovering non-game species. This definitely needs to be funded at optimum level.

These programs, and funds for them, need to be restored to 2015-2017 proposed ODFW budget. This would mean adding more general fund to the ODFW budget, which I think considering how important these programs are, is something that should be done. If this can't be done, then ODFW should look at other parts of their budget for areas to cut to allow funding for these programs. For example, the money allocated as General Fund for hatcheries could be taken from that program. And I am not advocating closing hatcheries; I am just saying that ODFW can more efficiently manage their hatchery programs to create funding opportunities for other programs. ODFW is already looking at efficient methods of managing hatcheries. I feel that an even more intense look at tighten hatchery program efficiencies could result in more money that can be used for other programs, such as the WOSRP, that benefit all Oregonians.

Now TU support for programs already in ODFW budget-

POP 101- This money would provide with key field staff who work on a myriad of conservation issues. These field staff are also very important in working with TU members on different restoration projects across the state. If these positions weren't funded many key watershed restoration projects could not be done. Please make sure POP 101 is fully funded. I have attached the 2014 OCTU annual report which details many projects that have been done by TU members in the state last year. Without ODFW staff to help with these programs, these projects –so important for the recovery of salmonid habitat- would not have been finished. Also, ODFW's very Important Water Quality/Quantity department needs to be fully funded so ODFW can do important work on water quality and in-stream flow-so important for wild fish.

POP 102-This would allocate money from proposed hunting and fishing license increase to help with programs which would benefit hunters and anglers. Trout Unlimited feels that this money, as well as the proposed ODFW license fee increase are very important. Trout Unlimited is a very adamant supporter of the proposed license fee increase-SB 247- and feels that the funding raised there is very important for ODFW.

And very briefly I want to mention that TU is in supporter of POP 104, the Klamath Anadromous Fish reintroduction Plan. As a major plan in removing dams on Klamath and other issues there, we believe POP 104 needs to be fully funded.

And just a mention that TU supports the current proposal within the Oregon State Police budget which supports general fund asks which would fund 17 positions for the OSP fish and Wildlife division. These officers do much more than just work on hunting and fishing violations and need to be fully funded by state general funds.

Lastly, Trout Unlimited supports HB 2402, which would set up a task force which would look at long term funding for the agency. We need to look at creative ways to fund agency, such as HB 3215 and HB 2401, and increase the amount of general fund. We have been involved in several work groups this 2015 Oregon legislative session working on key issues for the future of ODFW. HB 2402 would insure a proper task force to continue to work on those issues.

Several hunting and fishing groups will be here today to protest the ODFW 2015-2017 proposed budget-for many reasons. TU has often disagreed with ODFW and many fish management issues. But we respect the staff and the work they do and feel they deserve sufficient funding to do their conservation mission.

I represent a group of anglers and hunters who care about conservation of native wild species. We also love to hunt and fish. Speaking for myself personally, I have been hunting and angling since I was 5 years old. I currently own 21 fishing rods (17 of them fly rods) and 5 rifles and shotguns. I am planning numerous multi-day trips , after the 2015 session ends, to fish in high lakes for trout, fish on Deschutes, John day and Rogue for steelhead and hunting trips for upland gamebirds in Eastern Oregon. TU, and I, recognize the importance of ODFW in the future of the hunting and angling community in Oregon.

But 88% of all wildlife in Oregon is non-game and 80% of Oregonians don't angle or hunt. They enjoy wildlife in other ways, such as bird watching. It is important that ODFW be fully funded in all ways possible-license fees, general fund money or special fees- to make sure that we conserve and protect our native fish and wildlife for ALL Oregonians.

Please fully fund ODFW's proposed budget and add extra money for recovering needed important programs such as the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program. It is necessary for Oregon's continued commitment to conservation of our native wildlife.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited





# ANNUAL<sup>2</sup> REPORT<sup>1</sup><sub>4</sub>



Dear Oregon TU Members,

An email survey was recently sent to TU members in Oregon. The survey provided some great feedback on how to become a better organization and how to improve service to our members.

One of the clear messages from the survey was that many Oregon TU members weren't too informed about TU activities in Oregon. We're working to improve this by sending out a printed newsletter at least once a year, or as many times as our budget allows.

In Oregon, Trout Unlimited currently consists of the Oregon Council and 6 Chapters, serving nearly 3000 members. Our mission across the state remains consistent: "Protect, Restore and Reconnect our coldwater fisheries habitat using the best available science."

Oregon TU Chapters and the Oregon Council are engaged in a wide range of Conservation Projects and Education Events in an attempt to fulfill our mission. Chapters adopt projects and specific watersheds as their membership and funding allows. The Oregon Council coordinates larger, regional efforts with TU National staff, State and Federal Agencies. The following summaries show the great work going on across Oregon by local Chapters and the Council.

However, implementing our mission to protect our Salmon, Steelhead and Trout habitat really needs your support. A donation from you today is guaranteed to be used in Oregon for Oregon projects. The Oregon Council and Chapter organizations are all 100% volunteer operations so you can be assured that your support is channeled directly to projects on the ground, the essence of our grassroots focus and not on administrative staff costs. Trout Unlimited is a registered 501 (c) (3) organization and your donation is fully tax deductible.

Please read on about the great work TU is doing across Oregon, and consider a donation—if possible of \$40 or more—to help that work continue. Also, take advantage of the contact information in each chapter summary, or you can contact me by email or phone any time.

Tight Lines and good fishing!

Terry Turner  
terry@clackamasrivertu.org  
Trout Unlimited  
503-804-9868  
Oregon Council Chair







## OREGON COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2014/2015

The Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited is an elected body of volunteers from TU members in Oregon. The Oregon Council provides liaison between TU National Staff and Nationally funded projects and the local chapters. The Oregon Council also provides a path for input from the chapters to the National organization. The Council is also the primary voice for Trout Unlimited at the State and Federal Agency levels for Oregon wild fish issues. The Council provides a major presence during legislative sessions and State Agency Forums.

- **Connect with and influence Oregon State Agencies**
  - ODFW: Influence the selection of the new director of the agency to provide more focus toward conservation and leadership in conservation of wild salmonids.
  - Continue work with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Department of State Lands on forest management practices (including the Elliott State Forest) that improve habitat for all salmonids.
  - Work with the Oregon Water Resources Board to retain and improve in-stream flows for fish.
  - Participate in the 2015 session of the Columbia River Management Plan with the goal of maintaining the established of SAFE zones for commercial fishing and barbless hook rules for sport anglers.
  - Continue to work with Oregon Department of Forestry on new Forest Management Plans for Oregon state forests, looking to include adequate no cut stream buffers and other protections for streams. TU will also be working to protect designated Conservation areas within Tillamook/Clatsop state forests.
- **2015 Legislative Session**
  - Aggressively work to prevent bills which are harmful to salmonid habitat (e.g. Suction Dredge Mining) and promote bills that improve salmonid habitat.
  - Work to ensure that ODFW and other agency funding is secured to make progress in wild salmonid conservation.
  - Find an acceptable solution to the Elliott State Forest debate for the preservation of critical fish habitat in the forest.
- **Participate in Tillamook/Nestucca Basin Fish Passage Project**
  - This project proposes to reconnect 240 miles of blocked stream habitat through a local business, commercial and conservation coalition.
- **Coordinate with National Staff on Regional Projects**
  - Wild Steelhead Initiative
  - O&C Lands management
- **Improve awareness of the Trout Unlimited Mission in Oregon**
  - Assist Chapters in Membership Growth, Event Management, and developing Chapter Infrastructure. We currently do not have a chapter in SW Oregon.
  - Grow membership across Oregon. Develop new chapters where members can be connected to TU closer to home.

For more info, contact:

Terry Turner, Oregon Council Chair | [terry@clackamasrivertu.org](mailto:terry@clackamasrivertu.org)

Tom Wolf, Oregon Council Executive Director | [tmilowolf@msn.com](mailto:tmilowolf@msn.com)



## Tualatin Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

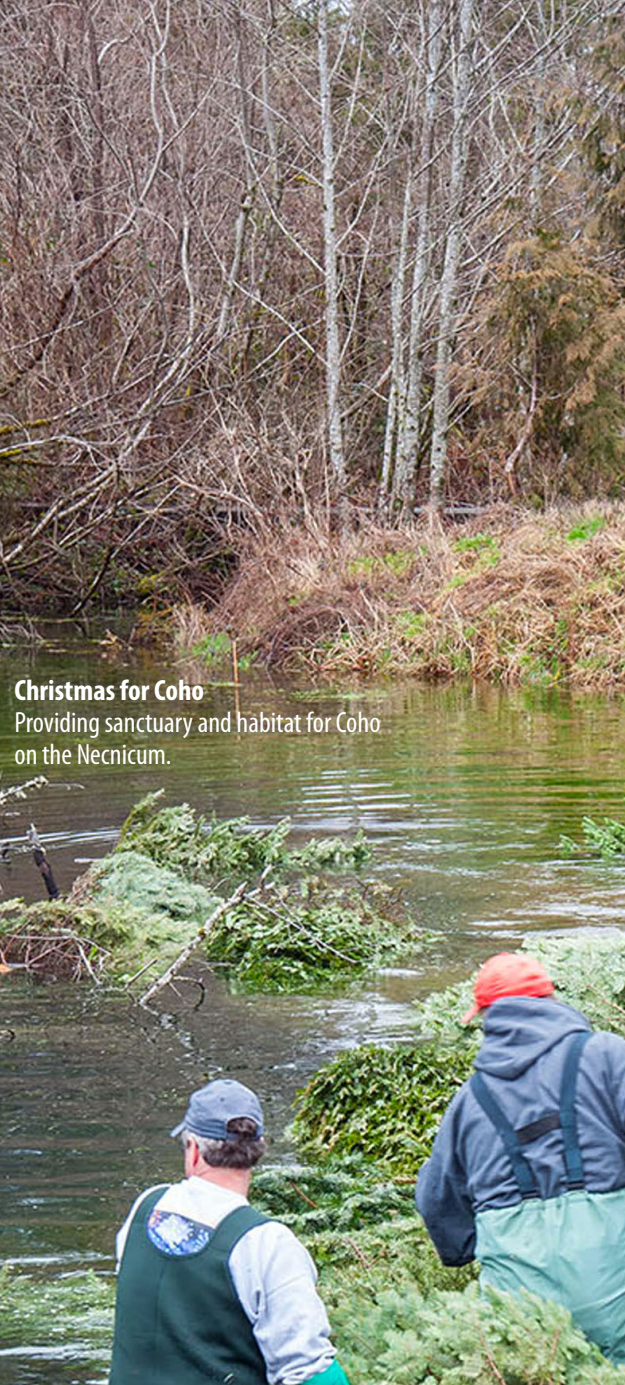
Our over 600-person membership focuses its efforts on the watersheds within the Tualatin Valley and the Necanicum River near Seaside.

### Our projects include:

- **Christmas for Coho:** Christmas trees collected from the public are placed in coastal Oregon wetlands to provide habitat for juvenile salmon and other wildlife. The project, now approaching its fourth year, has demonstrated improved Coho habitat and has received widespread coverage, promotion and accolades, including videos or spots on NPR and KGW TV plus coverage and an award from Field and Stream Magazine.
- **Derry Dell Creek:** This metropolitan area tributary of the Tualatin River has been the site of several ongoing chapter work parties removing invasive vegetation and planting native, restorative species.
- **Salmon Watch:** TVTU members participate as instructors in these streamside outings to educate younger generations on salmon biology, aquatic insect life, water quality and watershed health, and the chapter sponsored a Twality Middle School field day.
- **Project Healing Waters:** The chapter is the program sponsor in the Portland/Vancouver area of PHW, a national organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and veterans through fly tying, fly fishing outings and other activities, benefitting hundreds of veterans and military personnel.
- **Flyfishing Arts and Conservation Society:** The chapter is one of the sponsors of an annual Pacific Northwest Fly Tying Rendezvous in Portland, bringing dozens of experienced tyers demonstrating their skills, raising funds through an auction and distributing proceeds to organizations and projects that meet the Society's resource restoration or education criteria.

TVTU does not overlook the value of social interaction and fishing opportunities. Monthly chapter meetings feature a variety of speakers on topics from resource restoration and management to "secret" fishing tips. Details on chapter meeting speakers and programs are published in the emailed bimonthly newsletter along with outings schedules, program updates and volunteer calls, plus other articles of interest. Meetings are open to all members and other interested persons. Participation in TVTU projects and events is both an important service and a pleasurable social opportunity.

Erle Norman, TVTU President.  
Contact TVTU: [tvtumembers@gmail.com](mailto:tvtumembers@gmail.com)  
[www.tualatinvalleytroutunlimited.org](http://www.tualatinvalleytroutunlimited.org)  
[www.tvtroutunlimited.blogspot.com](http://www.tvtroutunlimited.blogspot.com)



**Christmas for Coho**  
Providing sanctuary and habitat for Coho on the Necanicum.

## Wild North Coast Chapter, Seaside

The Wild North Coast Chapter is brand new in Oregon this year and is centered in Seaside. Some of Oregon's best wild salmon and steelhead habitat lies in the NW Oregon region so this is an excellent area for a TU Chapter.

- The new Chapter is already active in conservation and habitat issues in Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. Some of our early work is focused on wild fish populations in the Nehalem system (in the Salmonberry watershed). We are also cooperating with the Tualatin Valley Chapter on restoring habitat on the Necanicum.
- Chapter leaders are working on planning events in Clatsop and Tillamook counties to help raise awareness of TU's activities and to increase membership to work on initiatives in the region. Your donations to the Wild N. Coast chapter will help build new chapter infrastructure and begin funding projects on watersheds throughout Clatsop and Tillamook counties. Funding will also provide engaging angling and conservation speakers for Chapter meetings.
- Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month in Astoria, Seaside and Rockaway. Providing a current email address to the chapter contacts below will ensure that you have notice of meetings and events in your area.

Contact:  
Austin Tomlinson, President | [nwregolith@gmail.com](mailto:nwregolith@gmail.com)  
Melyssa Graeper, Vice President | [necanicumwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:necanicumwatershed@gmail.com)  
Chapter Website: <http://wildnorthcoasttu.wordpress.com>





## The Deschutes Chapter, Bend, Oregon

The Deschutes Chapter located in Bend is actively working on wild fish habitat and flow issues in the Central Oregon Region.

### **Metolius River. Led by Darek Staab, a TU National Staff member:**

- Darek is TU's Project Manager for the Upper Deschutes Home Rivers Initiative, and with help from the local fishing community, TU volunteers, the Forest Service and others, TU completed work on critical riparian areas along the Metolius. Work consisted of improved access and trails along the river and new signage.

### **Fall River:**

- With grant assistance we have taken on the Fall River as a major activity of the Chapter. Last summer we supported a graduate student, Levy Old, to gather information on this spring fed tributary of the Deschutes. Levy is currently working on a major report synthesizing data and suggesting recommendations for improving habit leading to an improved fishery.

### **Upper Crooked River:**

- Again let by Darek, TU in collaboration with the Forest Service and TU Volunteers completed work on installing culverts and improving riparian area in the Deep Creek/Crazy Creek area of the Upper Crooked River watershed.

### **Opal Springs Fish Passage:**

- TU was a major party in the negotiations leading up to the agreement to install a fish passage structure around the Opal Springs Dam. The project is now in the fund raising stage and Deschutes Chapter Board members are involved in these negotiations. Additional support and funding is needed if this structure is to be built.

### **Upper Deschutes Winter Flows:**

- Deschutes TU Chapter representatives take part in planning sessions aimed at increasing flows in the Deschutes River during the winter months. Studies will analyze alternatives for the restoration of winter flows below Wickiup dam where the channel is deeply eroded and habitat has been severely degraded. We need to continue to represent environmental interests in this long term and complex process.

Contact:

Michael Tripp: [mtripp@bendcable.com](mailto:mtripp@bendcable.com)

Herb Blank: [hblank@yahoo.com](mailto:hblank@yahoo.com)



### **Upper Deschutes Fish Salvage Effort**

Organized by the Bend Casting Club and other Deschutes Chapter members.

6000 fish were salvaged and awareness of flow management issues were the primary wins on this project.



**Rapid Bio Assessment  
of the South Fork Siletz**  
Snorkel surveys provided critical  
data on the presence and  
conditions for steelhead  
habitat



## The Bluebacks Chapter, Corvallis

This was the first full calendar year for The Bluebacks and saw the Chapter begin its first restoration project by gathering monitoring data on the South Fork Siletz and a number of smaller tributaries. January through May of 2014, Chapter members volunteered their time to complete bi-weekly spawn surveys on 8 miles of the SF Siletz, Beaver Creek, Sand Creek, and Callahan Creek. Through rain and some nasty snowfall during the 2013-14 winter, Chapter members recorded two live adult steelhead, along with numerous cutthroat trout, lamprey, sculpin, and other native species.

### Key projects during 2014

- The Bluebacks used funds awarded in a TU Embrace-a-Stream grant to contract Bio-Surveys LLC to conduct a Rapid Bio Assessment of the South Fork Siletz and a handful of tributaries. The RBA, which included professional snorkel surveys of the study reaches on the SF Siletz and tribs, provided valuable data on the presence of juvenile steelhead along with observations of habitat conditions in the basin. The Bluebacks will review this data during the winter of 2014 and begin making plans for habitat restoration activities and other projects the chapter may undertake to improve conditions in the Siletz for native summer and winter steelhead, Chinook, lamprey, and more.

### Chapter members host fun events

- In February 2014, the Bluebacks hosted a showing of the Fly Fishing Film Tour that brought over 300 folks to the historic Whiteside Theatre and brought in over \$6000 in revenue for the Chapter. In October 2014, the Bluebacks hosted a showing of the International Fly Fishing Film Tour and are currently tallying attendance and profit figures from that event. The Chapter plans to continue showing F3T annually and is excited to be working with the newly opened Watershed Fly Shop on 1st Street in Corvallis to offer more community building events.

Contact:  
visit our website at [www.bluebacks.org](http://www.bluebacks.org).

## Clackamas River Chapter #677 (Portland Metro East Side)

It's been a busy year for the Clackamas River Chapter.

### Youth Education and Outreach

- CRTU helped coordinate the Kid's Fishing Day at Promontory Park near Estacada where nearly 200 young anglers were able to experience catching trout, some for the first time. USFS employees were on site presenting information and hands on activities for the kids during the day. PGE and the Timber Lake Job Corps are also partners in this event.

### Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp 2014

- 15 Campers became new anglers at our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Camp. Campers learn about watershed quality and fly fishing in this 4-day overnight camp experience.

### Conservation Activities

- **FERC Re-Licensing:**
  - CRTU is the primary NGO representative in the PGE Fish Committee, which is implementing the FERC relicensing agreement on the Clackamas Basin. Among the projects being implemented are two fish collectors, two fish sorting facilities, rebuilt fish ladders and downstream migration pipe, 13 side channel projects and the placement of 8,000 cubic yds. of gravel over the next five years.
- **Clackamas Bull Trout Reintroduction.**
  - Joint project with ODFW, USFS and USFW. We are in year 3 of the project and the chapter provides funding for temperature monitoring, capture and release of fish. The redd count has increased every year and progress is good for the new population in the upper Clackamas.
- **Oak Grove Fork Cutthroat Studies:**
  - This information will be used to determine future projects in the Oak Grove fork that will help maintain healthy populations.

CRTU Chapter meetings are held the 2 Tuesday of every month at High Rocks Restaurant in Gladstone.

Contact:

Dick Hollenbeck, President | [dick@clackamasrivertu.org](mailto:dick@clackamasrivertu.org)

David Tenney, Secretary | [dave@clackamasrivertu.org](mailto:dave@clackamasrivertu.org)

[www.clackamasrivertu.org](http://www.clackamasrivertu.org)



## The Redsides Chapter, Eugene

The TU Chapter in Eugene has regrouped under new leadership and has spent energy rebuilding the chapter infrastructure and membership base. The chapter has been a key player in projects on the McKenzie and Upper Willamette Rivers and will do even more important and exciting work with your support.

### Highlights from 2014

#### Chapter infrastructure

- Formed new Chapter Board in May 2014.
- Changed the official chapter name from the McKenzie/Upper Willamette to The Redsides Chapter of Trout Unlimited in May.
- Approved chapter bylaws in June.
- Established a strategic plan in July.

#### Conservation and Outreach

- Provided an information table at the Spring Fly Fishing Festival at Campbell Senior Center, Eugene June 2014.
- Provided volunteers for trail maintenance at Hendricks Bridge Park.
- Hosted a chapter picnic at Hendricks Bridge Park along the McKenzie in August 2014.
- Participated in the scope of project tour by The USFS South Fork McKenzie habitat improvement plan August 2014.
- Hosted presentations for members from US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council June-August 2014.
- Provided comments to the Army Corps of Engineers and Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB) on the Upper Willamette water management plan.
- Redsides Chapter is currently seeking funds for temperature monitoring equipment (6 sensors, base station, and software) to be used in assisting agencies in monitoring key projects in the McKenzie and Upper Willamette watersheds. Donor support is critical in assisting with this plan.

The Redsides Chapter meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 to 8:00pm at Rogue Public Ale House 844 Olive St. Eugene OR, 97401. Board meetings occur on the same day, just prior to the member meetings from 6:00-7:00 at the same location.

#### Contact

Lou Wentz, President  
bluegrassbreeze@gmail.com  
Phone: 610-858-6638  
<http://theredsides.org/>



Please remember that the easiest way we can contact you is by making sure that your membership is up to date and has your most recent and relevant contact information.

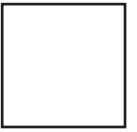
Please visit [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) and verify your information or you can call 1-800-834-2419 to make sure!







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