



March 31, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon
Senator Anderson
Senator Frederick
Representative Breese-Iverson
Representative Holvey
Representative Pham
Representative Brock Smith

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on SB 5539 (Department of State Lands Budget)

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Senate Bill (SB) 5539, the proposed budget for the Department of State Lands (DSL) for the 2021-2023 fiscal years. Trout Unlimited (TU) is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the conservation of coldwater fishes, such as trout and salmon, and their habitats. TU has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon. TU and its members have a strong interest in ensuring the protection of Oregon's waters including ensuring that the values and functions of wetlands and streams are appropriately protected by regulatory programs. Streams and wetlands provide valuable habitat for many important fish and wildlife species. Additionally, wetlands can provide other critical ecosystem services such as water quality filtration.

The Department of State Lands (DSL) is responsible for varied and important functions including ensuring protection of Oregon's waterways and wetlands through implementation of the removal-fill program and playing a stewardship role for certain public lands. TU requests that the Committee support DSL's proposed budget including the funding packages below which are critical to protecting Oregon's lands and waters.

POP 108: Elliot State Forest

POP 108 will further DSL's efforts to maintain the Elliot State Forest as efforts continue to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to guide its future management and potential transition to an Oregon State University (OSU) research forest. TU continues to support the development of a sustainable and transparent management plan for the Elliot State Forest.
\$2,000,000 Other Funds

POPs 101 and 102: Portland Harbor Superfund Site

POP 101: These funds would help ensure the ongoing protection of the state's interests as a potentially responsible party at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and ensures DSL's continued fulfillment of regulatory and stewardship responsibilities within the Site.

POP 102: These funds would facilitate investigations and cleanup work in the Portland Harbor Superfund Site by providing payment to the Portland Harbor Cleanup Fund and funding administrative and legal expenditures related to the investigation and design of cleanup projects.

\$7,944,231 Other Funds; 2 FTE – POP 101

\$6,765,000 Other Funds – POP 102

POP 110: Community-Led Waterway Health and Safety Projects

POP 110 provides continued investment to the Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund which provides local communities and organizations with grants to support solutions to increase the health and safety of Oregon's public waterways such as invasive species removal and water quality projects.

\$200,000 Other Funds

Thank you for consideration of TU's comments on SB 5539. It is critically important to the health of Oregon's lands and waters for DSL to be sustainably and sufficiently funded.



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