



TU Celebrates 50 Years of Protecting Cold, Clean, Fishable Water.

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 15, 2013

Co-Chairs Unger and Edwards and Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, chair of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, representing the 3000 TU members here in this state. I am here today to testify in support of the Oregon Department of Forestry budget.

First I would like to target specific Priorities which TU supports. POP 452, the Integrated Effectiveness package for watershed monitoring and stream temperature tracking is one that TU feels is very important. As there continues to be effect from climate change and impact from more water use, it is very important for ODF to have a good monitoring program in place. Package 452 provides the funding to do that monitoring and therefore should have major importance in funding priority. Part of this study would be in the Trask river watershed. Any POP with the concept of monitoring or research should be given top priority. We also support PO 453. Obviously, Trout Unlimited understands the importance of fighting fire but as ODF continues in the various aspects of it's mission, research and monitoring need to be well funded.

Recreational opportunities in state forests are an important item also. Due to its close proximity to the fast growing Washington county, the Tillmook/Clatsop state forest offers some great recreational opportunities for thousands of Oregonians. The Department of Forestry needs more funding to create and maintain trails, campgrounds and other recreational uses. Whether this is done this session or this is a topic to be pursued in the future, funding to help ODF create recreational opportunities in state forest is an important subject to be pursued. I hope the Oregon state legislature and ODF, looks in the future, at ways to fund further recreational opportunity in Oregon state forests.

Also, the Oregon State Legislature need to look at fees that can be created to further fund the Department of Forestry. Whether it be a state forest pass, similar to Federal Forest pass or some other type of user fee, as we are doing for other natural resource agency, we need to look at funding sources. That is a long term goal. That needs to be taken for the Oregon Department of Forestry to continue to meet their goals.

Lastly, as I have said during other natural resource agency budget hearings, the Oregon Legislature needs to look at increasing the amount of General Fund money that goes into the agency budgets. It is time to see that agency budgets get more money out of General Fund, including the Oregon Department of Forestry. This is a concept the Oregon Legislature needs to do in the future if we want to make sure that the natural resource agencies complete their missions.