



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 16, 2015

Trout Unlimited support for HB 3333

Chair Witt and Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, Executive Director for the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, representing our 2700 members here in Oregon. I am here testifying for Trout Unlimited in support of HB 3333.

The Oregon Trout Unlimited members spend thousands of hours every year volunteering to water on stream restoration projects. Those projects are on a diverse number of Oregon streams and Rivers such as the Necanicum, Wilson, Clackamas, McKenzie, Sandy, Tualatin, Crooked, Metolius, Wychus, upper and lower Deschutes and various other rivers and their tributaries. Over the last 20 years we have planted trees, removed faulty culverts and barriers, done in-stream improvements and other various projects for hundreds of miles of streams in Oregon. We work closely with watershed councils, ODFW biologists, fishery consultants and Forest Service/BLM staff. Thanks to our efforts, there is stronger habitat protection for various salmonid populations on many Oregon waters and thus more fish for Oregonians to enjoy.

I have passed out to you our 2014 Oregon TU annual report. It lists the projects done by our various chapters in waters across the state. This gives you a clearer idea of what our members is doing for Oregon's rivers and streams with their volunteer efforts.

We feel strongly that Oregonians wanted the money raised from the sale of salmon license plates to go primarily to streams restoration work. As a group whose members work hard at restoring our native trout and salmon waters, money to help with restoration is important. So therefore, we actively support HB 3333 as a way to make sure that the salmon license plate money goes to what it was intended-stream protection and restoration. We ask the committee to pass this bill so that future Oregonians can enjoy the benefit of many hours and millions of dollars spent on important stream restoration.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited