



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 8, 2015

Trout Unlimited testimony of support for WRD budget-HB 5042

Co-Chair Devlin, Co-Chair-Rayfield and Committee members-

I am here representing Trout Unlimited, the largest cold-water conservation group in the nation, with 2800 members in Oregon. Trout Unlimited is to support the overall Oregon Water Resources Department 2015-2017 proposed budget, HB 5042 with specific emphasis on some POP's.

The quantity of water within streams, or as it is referred to as in-stream flow, is very important for wild native fish to survive and thrive. Without sufficient water flows, fish will not have enough habitat to exist or dissolved oxygen to live. Realizing the importance of keeping water in streams for wild native trout and salmon, Trout Unlimited began the Western Water project, which looks at ways of protecting instream flows. TU has many staff all over the west working in in the Western Water Project section of TU as we strive to protect water quantity for our wild native fish.

The Oregon Water Resources Department is the major natural resource agency in our state whose mission is to protect stream flows for all users, including wild fish. Thus we support all the budget requests in HB 5042. We believe these requests, both for programs and staff, will help WRD in meeting their capacity to protect the water in the state so all Oregonians may enjoy the benefits of that water.

In particular we support POP's 101 and 104, which would provide funding for needed Klamath basin positions. Trout Unlimited has been crucially involved in the whole Klamath basin planning process for the dam removal,etc. The Water Resource Departments involvements in the Klamath process are crucial and thus both POP 101 and POP 104 need to be part of the final WRD proposed budget.

All Oregon natural resource agencies need to get more support from general fund money-they don't get enough. It is crucial for Water Resources Department that they get sufficient General Fund money for their proposed budget. We urge your committee to fully fund the 2015-2017 WRD budget to make sure they have the money and staff to carry out their vital function and mission.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

