



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 15, 2015

Trout Unlimited supports HB 2182

Chair Witt and Committee members-

I am here to represent the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, which has 2800 members scattered around the state. We are part of the larger organization, Trout Unlimited, which is the largest cold water conservation group across the nation.

Within the focus and mission of Trout Unlimited has occurred a problem that we are still struggling to deal with. That is the large growth in numbers of pinnipeds and seabirds (cormorants, Arctic terns). Trout Unlimited has no official policy on this but in other states we have supported drastic steps to deal with cormorant overpopulations. When populations of these predators get too large, for whatever reason, there needs to be a step to deal with this situation.

So therefore the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited supports HB 2182 which would have ODFW develop a predator management plan. This would include pinnipeds and sea birds. We certainly don't advocate for mass killing of native species but lethal take on large populations of these predators needs to be part of a plan. And we need to look at non-lethal options also.

HB 2182 is a bill that we encourage you to pass with input from all groups involved in this issue. Having a predator management plan is the right thing to do for our state and we encourage the passage of HB 2182.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited