



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 15, 2015

Trout Unlimited support for Oregon Department of Forestry budget-HB 5019

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

I am here today representing the 2800 members of Trout Unlimited here in Oregon. I will be giving testimony in support of HB 5019, the 2015-2017 Oregon Department of Forestry proposed budget.

Trout Unlimited asks that all the ODF budget requests be given as this agency provides a much needed function within our state. Whether it is managing state forests, working with private forest land, or fighting fires, ODF is a worthwhile organization that works for the good of all Oregonians. They deserve their entire budget approved and awarded.

In particular I am here to support the specific policy Option packages (POP) pertaining to Oregon state forests. POP 131 addresses the recreational and educational issues on state forest. Tillamook/Clatsop state forests, because of their proximity to a large urban area and the fastest growing city in Oregon, in particular need to provide more recreational opportunities for Oregonians. This POP is very important both for the needs of urban Oregonians and those in rural towns who derive part of their economic income from recreationists visiting state forests in Oregon.

POP 132 would provide important monitoring and research money needed for our seeing what is happening on our forests. POP 133 would provide needed General Fund money for the South Fork Inmate Camp. This camp provides needed labor to do trail maintenance and building and maintaining state forest camps. It also helps with an important prison camp project that provides needed social values.

In summary, the Oregon Department of Forestry needs our full support on their requested budget and in particular the general fund money requested which would benefit state forests and all Oregonians. Please pass HB 5019 out of your committee.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

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