



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 16, 2015

Trout Unlimited supports SB 830 with -2 amendments

Chair Edwards and Committee members-

I am here representing Trout Unlimited and to state our organization's support of SB 830 , as long as it includes -2 amendments that deal with our concerns.

Trout Unlimited is the largest cold water conservation group in the country and our 150,000 national members spend thousands of hours, just in Oregon alone, doing restoration projects and hundreds of miles of important stream habitat scattered around the state, from the Rogue to Deschutes to the Necanicum. Making sure that salmon and trout have healthy stream habitat to spawn and feed is very important in the ecosystem needs of all salmonids.

That is why Trout Unlimited is so concerned about the impact of recreational suction dredge mining on streams. Studies by TU scientists and by the American Fisheries Society, composed of fishery scientists, show that suction dredge can raise debris, cover eggs and prevent them from spawning, negatively impact macro-invertebrate species and spread mercury throughout a stream system. There need s to be regulations in place to steer the suction dredge miners in correct procedure for pursuit their activity.

SB 830, with the current amendments proposed, does take care of our concerns. Trout Unlimited certainly does want to stop suction dredge mining for recreationalists but there are some legitimate concerns raised by valid science papers that expose the dangers of this activity. SB 830 with the necessary amendments addresses Trout Unlimited's concerns. So we urge the committee to pass this bill with the attached -2 amendments.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited