



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

May 5, 2015

Trout Unlimited supports SB 175-6

Chair Barker and Committee members-

I represent Trout Unlimited the country's largest cold water conservation group but also one whose members are hunters and anglers. We, as a group of sportsmen and women, recognize that many people deliberately- for profit-violate fish and game regulations. These blatant and selfish attempts to violate our fish and game laws deserve to have punishments administered to the offenders.

That is why Trout Unlimited supports SB 175 with the dash 6 amendments. This bill spells out clearly fishing/hunting offenses and the attendant punishments. TU thinks that this bill is important in that it can do something about poaching, a major problem here in Oregon.

For example, there has been documented that poaching groups are deliberately targeting older, larger white sturgeon in order to harvest their eggs and sell them as caviar. The white sturgeon population in the lower Columbia River used to be the largest white sturgeon population in the world. Now their numbers have gone down significantly and poaching in order to steal the sturgeon eggs is a large part of the reason for this decline.

SB 175-6 will help deal with this issue and other wildlife violations. TU urges that the committee vote "Yes" on this very important bill to protect our native fish and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited