



April 5, 2017

Trout Unlimited testimony on OWEB 2017-19 budget, HB 5040

Co-chairs Frederick and Witt, Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing Trout Unlimited, the nation's largest cold-water conservation group. Our goal is to protect the habitat and populations of wild salmonids. Therefore, Trout Unlimited supports the OWEB 2017-19, HB 5040, proposed budget. OWEB provides important funding and programs for important restoration work on streams throughout our state. It also provides key funding for watershed councils, who are leads on important restoration efforts for the Oregon Salmon Plan, a key strategy on recovering Oregon's iconic salmon populations.

On a very personal level, both for myself and Trout Unlimited, OWEB is very important to us. TU supported the campaign for Measure 67 back in the 1990's that established OWEB funding. In 2010, TU was on the steering group for passing Measure 76 and worked hard on that campaign. Many of our members serve on watershed councils-I myself served on Tualatin Watershed Council for 12 years-helping to guide many of the work they are doing. Without OWEB's funding and support, the work of stream restoration, so important to TU members, would be much harder to accomplish.

Another aspect of OWEB's work that TU is very supportive of is their emphasis on effective monitoring tools. This has helped with getting good data on how effective some stream restoration projects. This has been especially needed on projects being done in Eastern Oregon like Whychus Creek and Fifteen mile Creek, important stream basins to restore. OWEB has been flexible in their work and adapted to filling out new areas of the state to focus on.

Trout Unlimited, in conclusion, fully supports the proposed 2017-2019 OWEB budget proposal, HB 5040 and asks for the committees support in passing this on to the full Ways and Means.

