



June 21,2017

Trout Unlimited testimony in support of HB 3350
To Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

Co-Chair Senator Frederick, Co-chair Rep. Witt, Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, Executive Director for the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, here representing our 3200 members in Oregon. I am here as a representative of a group of anglers/hunters/hikers who care about protecting our wild native coldwater fish species. We care about conservation but we also enjoying the privilege and sheer excitement of recreational opportunities to hunt, fish, hike, boat and paddle in Oregon. Therefore, Trout Unlimited supports HB 3350, which would create the office of Outdoor Recreation within the auspices of Oregon State Parks.

The recreational industry brings 12.8 billion dollars in to Oregon's economy each year, with almost \$3 billion coming from hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. And let's face it there is massive crossover in activities. Trout Unlimited members own boats to use for fishing, hike or backpack to get to fishing spots and camp in order to fish and hunt. Creating an office of Outdoor Recreation is a necessary step as it will give a voice to thousands of Oregonians who hike, boat, camp and enjoy the beautiful outdoors of Oregon.

As we create this office, I hop that there will be developed a communication with ODFW, who manage for fishing and hunting, and also Oregon Department of Forestry who manage state forest lands for recreational opportunities. It is important that this newly created office work with other agencies for the best possible results.

Trout Unlimited, in closing, supports HB 3350 and asks this committee to move this bill forward.

