



February 11, 2022

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair  
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair  
Representative Zach Hudson, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Trout Unlimited Supports House Bill 4072 with -2 Amendments

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Brock Smith and Hudson, and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (“TU”) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of trout, salmon, and steelhead. The organization has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide. Many of our members enjoy angling for wild steelhead in southern Oregon and participating in related conservation efforts.

**TU supports HB 4072, as amended by the “-2” amendments requested by Vice-Chair Brock Smith.**

TU actively participated in the Rogue-South Coast (“RSC”) Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (“Plan”) process. The -2 amendments to this bill would enact key components of the Plan – as agreed by its stakeholders and approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission – to fund wild steelhead population monitoring. Specifically, the Plan provides that:

“Two new steelhead fishing authorizations will be implemented to track overall fishery participation, improve reporting of wild steelhead harvest, and generate funds for winter steelhead monitoring in the planning area[.] At the proposed authorization costs, roughly \$80,000 per year will be generated for monitoring.” [Rogue-South Coast Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan](#) at p. 82 (Approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 17, 2021).

These new authorizations are: (1) an RSC “Steelhead Validation” required for all winter steelhead anglers in the RSC basins and Sixes River, and (2) an RSC “Wild Steelhead Harvest Card” in connection with the mandatory reporting requirements for anglers that harvest wild steelhead. Without the legislature’s approval of these new permitting requirements as included in the -2 amendment, the new Validation and Harvest Card cannot be implemented.

TU believes the new Validation and Harvest Card – and the scientific monitoring funded by those authorizations – are critically important and should be implemented as soon as possible. If the legislature approves this bill (with -2 amendments), the new Steelhead Validation and Harvest Card will be go into effect and be required for anglers as of January 1, 2023. Any delay will allow important data to go uncollected. If these authorizations are not enacted until the 2023 legislative session, then the RSC winter steelhead seasons in 2023 (i.e., January – April, plus December) will occur but be largely unmonitored.

We sincerely thank Vice-Chair Brock Smith for his leadership in requesting these -2 amendments, and greatly appreciate Representative Gomberg for accommodating those adjustments to HB 4072.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this legislation, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Trout Unlimited  
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