



January 24, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
Representative Annessa Hartman, Vice-Chair  
Representative Mark Owens, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

**Re: Trout Unlimited supports House Bill 2527**

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (“TU”) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fish and their habitats. Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. TU has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide, including many members in Oregon.

**TU supports House Bill 2527 because it incentivizes voluntary conservation of wildlife habitat – expressly including efforts to improve water quality and restore fish habitat – on private land.**

The Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) at ODFW requires participating landowners to submit a proposed management plan for their enrolled acreage to ODFW for review and approval. ORS 308A.412. Such plans “may include those efforts that improve water quality, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats, recover threatened or endangered fish species, enhance stream flows and maintain or restore long-term ecological health, diversity and productivity on a broad geographic scale.” ORS 308A.409(1)(b)(B).

By providing ODFW more flexibility in administering WHCMP as provided in this bill, the legislature will allow the Department and partnering SWCDs and counties to resume efforts to enroll properties in this program, which can provide important benefits to Oregon’s native fish.

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

Sincerely,

James Fraser  
Oregon Policy Advisor  
Trout Unlimited  
[james.fraser@tu.org](mailto:james.fraser@tu.org)