



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb. 22, 2016

Trout Unlimited testimony for SB 1517

Chair Witt and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, Executive Director of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, here representing the 3200 members of Trout Unlimited here in Oregon. These members volunteer thousands of hour to work doing restoration in watersheds across this great state. We believe that the restoration efforts of all our volunteers, who are dedicated individuals of different political beliefs, either liberal or conservative, would be harmed by the original language of SB 1517. Thankfully, SB 1517 was amended to be just a Tillamook county pilot project and many of our concerns were dealt with.

Whereas SB 1517A is a much better bill, TU still has concerns about the county approval part. In Tillamook county, we are working on a project, the Salmon Super Highway, that is restoring riparian habitat on the 5 Tillamook Bay rivers and the Nestucca. It is a project with partnerships with local Tillamook county landowners, business people and county officials. It was done in a consensus manner and true partnership that signified a true desire to work together to do restoration that will help Tillamook rivers to recover salmon populations which will help with the economic and ecological recovery of Tillamook county. The Salmon Super Highway is an example of time stakeholder bases consensus building projects that Trout Unlimited is doing all over the country.

SB 1517A is a much better bill then it's original version. But even in its amended form, we don't believe it is needed. We feel that the current processes for wetland and stream projects in counties already bring enough consensus stakeholder involvement to the process and SB 1517A is not needed. TU asks that either SB 1517 be amended to create a task force process or allow one to be created in Tillamook County.

Trout Unlimited has a history of working with private landowners to do key restoration, providing funding, volunteers and project planning. Trout Unlimited doesn't believe SB 1517 is needed. Either it should be amended to create a task force, allow a pilot process be set up in Tillamook county by agencies and stakeholders there or table this bill until 2017 when we can come back with a longer timeline to deal with this issue.

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

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