



March 12, 2017

Trout Unlimited Support for 2107-19 DEQ budget

Co-Chair Frederick and Co-Chair Witt and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing Trout Unlimited, whose staff and volunteers spend many thousands of dollars and money working on projects throughout the state trying to restore and protect important salmonid habitat. The work that our members do is in many times either directly in partnership with or aided by the work of our state natural resource agencies. Therefore Trout Unlimited supports the DEQ budget requests for the 2017-2019 cycle.

In an area, which Trout Unlimited considers very important for our mission, water quality, DEQ's work is very important. The staff positions and programs which DEQ does for water quality are a major benefit to salmonid native species, aquatic macroinvertebrates they feed on and the \$ 1 billion annually which recreational fishing brings into the economy. These 3 areas are interconnected-without healthy macroinvertebrate populations couldn't survive and without large thriving numbers of fish, anglers wouldn't be out fishing and bringing money into local economies. DEQ's work is vital to the sport TU members love and the wild trout/salmon populations they work so hard to protect.

Trout Unlimited would also like to point out the importance of the Storm water package, number 120. As Oregon Cities continue to grow, managing stormwater runoff has become very important. The runoff from our roads end up in our rivers and streams and thus have a big impact on our salmonid populations. If we don't do a good job of managing this runoff, then we could severely damage our rivers. DEQ budget package 120 specially would help provide staff time and programs to help us deal with this potentially great impact on waterways of Oregon. In areas like where I live, Hillsboro-which has 5 major streams and The Tualatin within or bordering it- managing stormwater is very important. So TU urges, along with other water quality parts with in DEQ budget, support for Package 120.

In closing, Trout Unlimited, as we face the pressures of being a growing state dealing with all the ecological issues that brings, urges that we fund DEQ, with its important responsibility for air, land and water quality, with sufficient money to do their important mission. As we Oregonians strive to protect the environment of our beautiful state, protecting budgets of Natural Resource agencies, such as DEQ, are very important. TU asks this committee to make sure DEQ has money to do their mission.