



Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited | 2017 Annual Report



From the Oregon Council Chair and Oregon Staff Director

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2017, what is most notable is the diversity and scale of our work. TU's successful efforts to keep the Elliot State Forest public, to ban suction dredge mining in many of our streams and rivers, and to protect the Smith River's outstanding water resources represents the kind of solid and pragmatic leadership that TU volunteers and staff provide to vexing natural resource challenges. TU staff also continues to develop and implement massive regional restoration projects like the rehabilitation of more than 2 miles of the historic Sun Creek channel flowing out of Crater Lake National Park to recover and protect one of the few remaining strongholds of ESA-listed bull trout here in the state. This project included a permanent dedication of instream water to assure not only suitable habitat, but also adequate flow and water quality for the fish, and prepares the stream for anadromous fish to return once the Klamath River dams are removed. We are proud to report that the fish are already returning to Sun Creek. This is only one example of the many, many great restoration projects staff accomplished across the state in 2017, working from the Owyhee to the Tillamook, and the Grande Ronde to the Chetco.

Reading on in this annual report, you'll see some of the amazing local work that TU chapters are accomplishing across Oregon. We are proud to recognize so many dedicated volunteers that serve as chapter leaders promoting the TU Mission and embracing those communities where we work. Tom Wolf has served Trout Unlimited as a volunteer for over 25 years in Oregon. He has helped establish TU in Oregon as a dependable and collaborative partner in conserving habitat for our fisheries and I can't thank Tom enough for his service. We wish him well in his retirement.

One of our most critical challenges in Oregon will be continuing to work in the Deschutes basin. TU, along with other NGO's work on the Fish Committee for the Pelton-Round Butte Dam project. This representation is very important to ensure that the water quality and habitat of the Lower Deschutes is fully considered during the FERC relicensing process. Participating on the committee does not mean we always agree with PGE on their plan. Our role is to ensure that angler and grass roots concerns are considered in their plan.

While many organizations work on important issues in Oregon, Trout Unlimited remains the quiet and strong leader that gets the work done. The kind of accomplishments TU achieved in 2017 is the result of years of commitment to the communities of Oregon. TU's staff model is to locate amazing professionals on the ground in the river basins that we serve, so that our staff is a part of the fabric of the community and a true stakeholder in the rivers we steward. TU Staff collaborates with the volunteers in each region, who represent the true backbone of the organization. Please reach out to your local chapter to see examples of TU Staff and volunteers working in your community. Or, contact us any time!

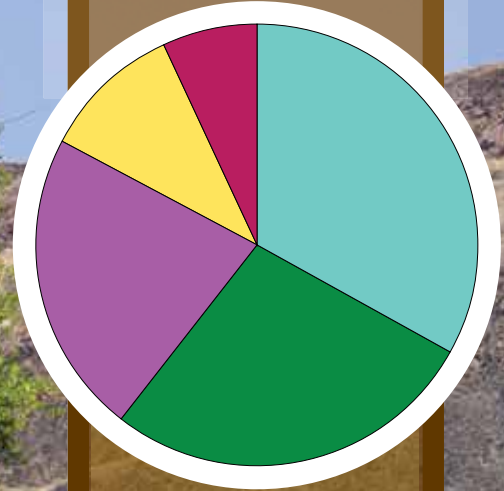
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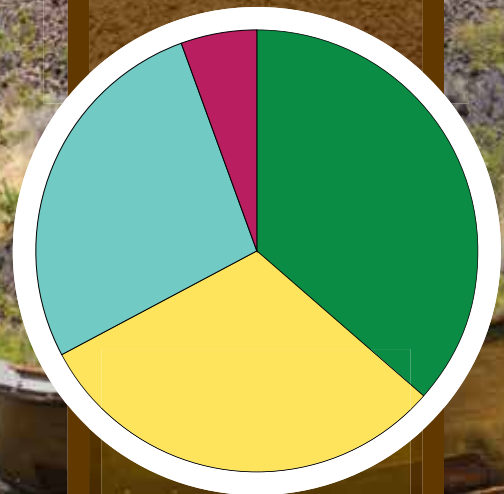
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2017 REVENUE



26.5%	REBATES
10.5%	SOLICITATION
33%	DONATIONS
6.7%	BUSINESS
22.3%	2016 BALANCE

2017 EXPENSES



36.6%	OUTREACH
30.8%	CHAPTERS
27.2%	ADVOCACY
5.4%	ADMIN

Please use the envelope to contribute to Oregon Trout Unlimited. Your donations support Oregon programs and chapters. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

Tualatin Valley Chapter, West Side Portland Metro

This year was another good one for the Chapter, thanks to the efforts of the board members, chapter members and volunteers. The Christmas for Coho program, now in its fifth year, involves collection of Christmas trees for placement in salmon habitat to benefit juvenile Coho and other species. Tree collections in early January were a challenge with the snow storms, but dedicated TVTU and CRTU members braved the weather and families ventured out to drop off trees. Donations from the families dropping off the trees go to offsetting the costs and supporting other chapter activities. We are working with ODFW and other agencies to find suitable placement locations and days. Our biggest hope is that other groups in other locales will undertake similar efforts for their waterways.

Monthly chapter meetings are every second Wednesday except July and August and are well-attended, with a good balance of conservation speakers and programs and fishing-oriented presentations. Meetings are open to all, and we encourage you to attend. The monthly raffles feature good items and raise funds for our projects. TVTU also is a member organization with CRTU and others hosting the annual FFACS Fly Tying Rendezvous (this year on November 11 at the Portland Armory), featuring many good tyers together with silent auctions and bucket raffles raising funds for a variety of resource and education goals.

Outreach is a big part of what we do. Each year, TVTU members volunteer at the CRTU Kids Camp on the upper Clackamas for three days in July. TVTU members also staffed the Tualatin River Keepers Summer Conservation Camp at Cook Park in July and August. Board Member Peter Gray presented lessons to the kids on various conservation, fish biology and ecology topics using the TU Stream Explorer materials. The Tualatin River Refuge Bird Festival also provided an opportunity for TVTU members to distribute Stream Explorer magazines and other TU information to many of the twelve hundred attendees. And for many years, several TVTU members have given countless hours at numerous Project Healing Waters events and outings.

The chapter also has been very fortunate to have successful annual fall fundraisers with our members, and that has enabled us both to conduct our ongoing activities and projects and to provide some help for worthy recipients. This year we were able to provide some funding to the State Council, the Necanicum Watershed Council and the Deschutes River Alliance. We were also able to purchase some enforcement equipment for the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Service and some items for the kids at the CRTU Kids Camp.

For easy access to information on TVTU, use any of the following means: www.facebook.com/tualatinvalleyTU
www.tvtroutunlimited.blogspot.com
<http://tualatinvalley.tu.org>
We hope to see you soon at our chapter activities

Bluebacks Chapter, Corvallis

Conservation: Bluebacks continue to focus on the upper Siletz River and its wild summer steelhead. Another resting pool snorkel surveys on eleven miles of the North Fork Siletz above Valsetz Falls. This was accomplished by John McMillen (TU), Nick Chambers (TU) and Conrad Gowell (Native Fish Society) and several Blueback volunteers. All data collected is shared with ODFW in order to aid with fish management.

Habitat: Five miles of the South Santiam River were adopted through SOLVe and clean-up floats were held in June and October. Both trips included a social/lunch and some good fishing.

Education: Bluebacks support Linn-Benton Salmon Watch both monetarily and with volunteer hours. Fifth and sixth grade students were educated on Salmon Biology, Water Quality, Riparian Health, and Macro-Invertebrates. Events were held on the South Santiam River and the Alsea River.

Community Outreach: Bluebacks were well represented at numerous community events including FFF Expo and September Fest.

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at the Watershed Fly Shop in Corvallis.
www.bluebacks.org
facebook.com/TUBluebacks

Deschutes Chapter, Central Oregon

The Deschutes Basin Study is the most significant collaborative effort to date regarding re-establishing the Upper Deschutes as a viable cold-water fishery. This three year and \$1.5 million process is in its last year with options being developed leading to a more reasonable flow regime in the Upper D. Our Chapter has been involved with the Basin Study Work Group since its inception and three members are now actively involved with final options development and prioritization. The individual effort and commitment of Mike Tripp, our Chapter Board representative, has been extraordinary.

Our Spring-fed Rivers Stewardship Program, led by TU Project Manager Darek Staab and supported by the chapter, provides spring and fall field trips and classroom training to over 650 Bend-LaPine School District kids. Teachers and students participate in environmental education that uses place-based curriculum and real-world stream restoration methods. The best part is that kids who have never been to these rivers get a chance to see how they work up close and personal.

Fall River Riparian and Fish Passage Improvements remain a shared priority between TU staff and chapter volunteers because of the decline in the fishery coupled with the fact that more and more people are enjoying this incredible place. We have completed 40 riparian restoration projects in an effort to replace vegetation and direct foot traffic and stream access in a manner that reduces erosion. We will continue to work with ODFW in transitioning from a "put and take" management philosophy to one that emphasizes getting fish distributed throughout the system and possibly reproduce. We also have not given up on re-establishing regulations that provide a safe zone for spawning browns below the falls. Two fish barriers at "The Tubes" and the diversion dam at the hatchery are also being addressed by our chapter and ODFW.

Indian Ford Creek Culvert Replacements are being led and managed by Darek Staab. The replaced culverts (2) will open 6 miles of spawning habitat to native redbands. In addition, forest thinning will conserve the stream's aspen stand and include a meadow restoration project to retain cooler water and improve its quality.

Benham Falls Corridor Rehabilitation and Improvements are led by Darek Staab in cooperation with Deschutes National Forest and aimed at restoring degraded streambanks and riparian habitat while improving fishing access points. This is one of Central Oregon's most popular and spectacular walking trails for both Bend residents and Sunriver visitors.

Lower Deschutes Water Quality and the operation of the tower at Pelton Dam continues to be a focus for our board working in cooperation with the State Council. Our chapter members have seen first-hand the algal growth and fishery impacts below the dam. We will continue working with our State Council in seeking definition of the problem from PGE, options for mitigation and a schedule for implementation.

Chapter monthly meetings are held at 50 SW Bond Street Suite 4 Bend, OR 97701; 6 PM; first Wednesday.

Primary Contact is Shaun Pigott spigott@teleport.com

Chapter FaceBook address is <https://www.facebook.com/DeschutesRedbands/>



Clackamas River Chapter, East Side Portland Metro

The Clackamas River Chapter has been very active on our home waters in Clackamas and East Multnomah counties. We are proud of the many habitat improvements that are accomplished with the help of our partners in the basin.

Conservation

- Clackamas River Chapter of Trout Unlimited was awarded a Rise to the Future National Award from the US Forest Service for our volunteer partnership with the agency on many projects over the years.
- CRTU worked with ODFW to perform a volunteer steelhead redd count on a reach of Eagle Creek. With changing hatchery operations at the USFW hatchery on Eagle Creek, ODFW biologists wanted to establish a baseline for wild fish populations spawning in reaches below the hatchery. We surveyed the 1-mile reach weekly and counted 11 active redds and observed a number of wild fish between January and May.
- As part of our participation in the Bull Trout reintroduction, CRTU purchased and installed angler information signs at key access points describing Bull Trout identification and promoting releasing them if caught. CRTU received an Embrace a Stream grant for this work in 2015.
- Participated in the "Down the River Cleanup" with the Clackamas River Basin Council.
- Worked with the Forest Service on illegal camp cleanups on the Clackamas, removing an illegal large raft on Fish Lake in the Olallie Basin and removing Styrofoam blocks and other trash from Shining Lake on Mt. Hood.
- CRTU provided a number of volunteers for several Clackamas River Basin Council projects such as "Shade our Streams" tree plantings and invasive species removals.
- The Chapter operates a "Volunteer Network" where projects and other volunteer opportunities are sent to an email list of willing volunteers.

Outreach and Education

- Our big event of the year is our Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp in Mt. Hood National Forest. Fifteen campers and a number of parents participated in camp where they learned introductory fly-casting, fishing, stream etiquette and fly tying. In addition, we offered education on watershed health, macro-invertebrate identification and fish dissection. Our watershed and fish education classes are enhanced by partners from the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife.
- Co-hosted a free kids fishing day in cooperation with the US Forest Service, Job Corps, US Fish and Wildlife employees. Kids are offered a chance to catch and keep stocked fish from a dedicated pond at PGE's Promontory Park. This is often the first time many of these kids have had a chance to fish.
- Participate in the Christmas for Coho tree collection with the Tualatin Valley Chapter.
- Chapter presentations and information booths were staffed at Rotary meetings, Gladstone Arbor Day celebration and the Portland Sportsman's Show.

Our monthly meetings are held at High Rocks Restaurant on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, September through May. We have a range of conservation and fishing speakers at every meeting. The chapter also publishes a monthly e-newsletter for all members.

Website: www.clackamasrivertu.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClackamasRiverTroutUnlimited/>

Contact: Ruth Ann Tsukuda, President ruthann@clackamasrivertu.org

The Redsides Chapter, Eugene-Springfield

Conservation and Advocacy

- The Redsides continue to be involved with conservation work on the Smith river with members making regular trips to the West Fork Smith to complete redd surveys. This is critical monitoring work necessary to document spawning activity in the Smith River. The Smith River watershed has been targeted as a potential nickel mining site.
- Our members have volunteered during the Great Willamette river clean-up and the Trashy Tuesday targeted clean up the previous week. 40 bags of garbage were collected at one site involving 3 homeless camps along the Willamette in town.
- Paul Wagner, Chapter President, testified at a Eugene city council meeting on the real threats to the water quality of the Willamette from the human waste and garbage generated by these camps.

Veteran's Services

- Our chapter is affiliated with a thriving PHW chapter that has organized several great weekend fishing adventures and has regular weekly meetings.

Outreach and Education

- Members have partnered with ODFW, helping with angler education events and kids fishing days.

We are looking forward to some great presentations this winter and to forming partnerships for some local conservation work.

The Redsides Chapter meets at Roaring Rapids Pizza in Glenwood at 6:30 on the first Monday of the month.

Contact: Paul Wagner, President: pauwag@comcast.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theredsides/>

South Coast Cutthroat Chapter, Coos Bay

The South Coast Cutthroat Chapter is just wrapping up our second year as a chapter. Our monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM held at Elkhorn BBQ on the south side of Coos Bay right off Highway 101. This past year we hosted a couple guest speakers to talk about local fish habitat restoration projects, like restoration projects in the Elliott State Forest.

Chapter members assisted the Coos Bay BLM office with planting trees along Woodward Creek in the Coquille Basin. We teamed up with the Surfriders Coos Bay Chapter to conduct a river clean-up on rivers in the Coos and Coquille basins. Chapter members also gathered one weekend to fish for winter steelhead on the Smith River.

Chapter members held a letter writing campaign to the Oregon State Land Board and local legislators to keep the Elliott State Forest in public ownership. We also submitted a Chapter letter to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality asking for an Outstanding Resource Waters designation for the Elk River upstream of the Elk River Hatchery.

For more information about the South Coast Cutthroat Chapter you can check us out on Facebook by going to the South Coast Cutthroat, Trout Unlimited Chapter 930 page or email Gary Vonderohe at southcoastcuts@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/South-Coast-Cutthroat-Trout-Unlimited-Chapter-930-1669123540041610/>

Oregon Veteran Service Partnership Program

Three Trout Unlimited chapters sponsor 5 PHW programs in Oregon as a part of the TU Veterans Service Partnership. These official relationships are self-sustaining, raising more than \$20,000 in local donations and \$10,000 in support from the National Headquarters, in the last 12 months.

With these funds and the support of more than 75 volunteers, 375 veterans were given the opportunity to learn to fly fish, build fly rods, tie flies and develop an understanding of conservation and coldwater resources. These veterans were offered a free first year of membership in TU and more than 30 opportunities to fish and work in the outdoors. All of this has occurred in the last year.

The chapters that sponsor PHW programs (in parentheses) are located in Bend (Bend and John Day), Eugene (Eugene and Roseburg) and Portland (Portland). The service to veterans is not limited to official program events. Support has extended to events that include annual events like the NW Fly Tyers Rendezvous and the Pacific Northwest Fly Fishing Expo where veteran participants are offered classes and opportunities to exhibit their fly fishing skills.

All of this adds up to a robust year of recreation and education that amounts to therapeutic activities that have helped the veteran participants cope with challenges, both physical and mental.

The VSP continues to grow in Oregon. A training package is being developed to provide instructions to volunteers regarding learning techniques for educating persons with disabilities. The package when completed by TU National VSP Program will be delivered to all participating chapters and others who are interested.

The VSP continues to seek to develop new opportunities to reach out to veterans in communities in Oregon.

Klamath Chapter, Klamath Falls

This was the first year for the new Klamath Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which includes all of Klamath and Lake Counties. Our kick-off event was hosting the Wild and Scenic film festival in Klamath Falls in November 2017 and it was such a success that we hosted the second annual showing in fall 2018. In July, members got together for a fishing social at the North Fork Sprague River to catch redband trout, get to know each other, and win some great raffle prizes.

Chapter initiatives include improving access and mapping of fishing in our region, as well as participating in citizen science in partnership with ODFW. The chapter was awarded an Embrace-A-Stream grant to collect water samples for eDNA analysis, which will contribute to basin-wide bull trout population data.

Board meetings and member meetings are posted on the chapter website, and events are announced on the Facebook page as well.

Website: www.KlamathTU.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KlamathTU

Email: KlamathTU@gmail.com



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April 27-28, 2018
Keystone, CO
SEE YOU THERE!!

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