

## Oregon Veteran Services Partnership Program

Imagine a newbie fly fisher afloat in a drift boat on a gorgeous sunny September day. His fly rod is flexed to capacity as he fights a trophy Yellowstone River trout. The rugged Montana hills rise majestically in the background. The person rowing the boat is an experienced fly fisher, coaching the vet through playing the fish, landing it in the net, and smiling triumphantly for a photograph.

That newbie fisherman is a disabled veteran from Oregon. The person alongside him is a volunteer. Together, they are a perfect example of Trout Unlimited's Veteran Services Partnership in action.

This past year VSP served more than 500 Oregon veterans. Trout Unlimited chapters in Bend, Eugene and Portland gave these military men and women the opportunity to engage in fly fishing activities like casting, fly tying, knot tying, rod building and—of course—time on the water catching fish.

VSP is a collaboration with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., an organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing activities.

The week-long trip to Montana gave 12 veterans from Oregon the amazing opportunity to fish some of America's most famous fly fishing waters—the Madison, Gallatin and Yellowstone rivers. Volunteers local to that area also shared some of their favorite secret fishing spots.

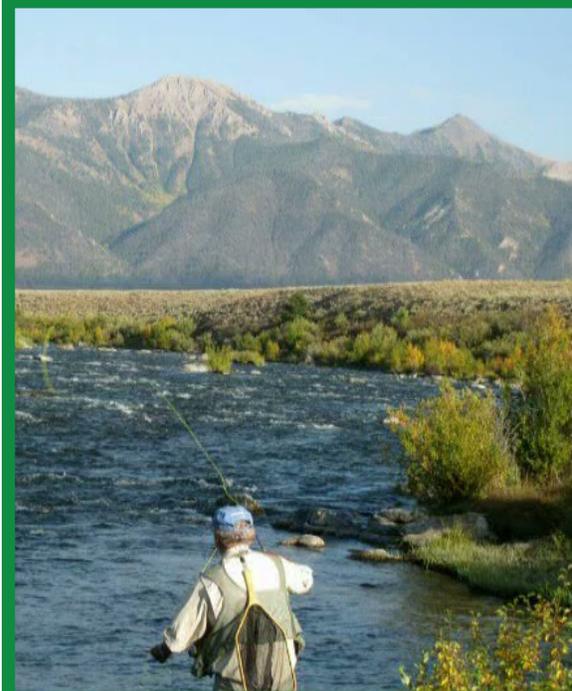
"We were treated like royalty throughout the trip," said Jay Woodbury, one of the Oregon veterans. "We came home with great memories of kindness and camaraderie."

Jerry Lorang, Oregon's PHWFF Program Leader and an organizer of the trip, was pleased with how it all turned out.

"This was an opportunity of a lifetime for veterans," said Lorang. "And the generosity in Montana extended well beyond the cost of lodging and food to include advice, helpers on the water and great access to wonderful fishing sites."

PHWFF hosts regular activities in Portland, Bend, Roseburg and Eugene. Last year we provided over 120 workshops teaching fly fishing related skills and hosted 16 outings to fish rivers and lakes. Dozens of veterans tied flies and built rods at public events like the Northwest Fly Tye and Fly Fishing Expo in Albany and the Sunriver Fly Fishing Festival in Central Oregon.

Volunteers and veterans are encouraged to get involved. To learn more, contact Jerry Lorang at [jerrylorang@gmail.com](mailto:jerrylorang@gmail.com).





## Salmon SuperHwy

The Salmon SuperHwy is one of those amazing ideas that makes you proud to be a part of TU. This program set the audacious goal of opening over 180 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat across six river basins in 10 years. These projects aren't just about fish though. They are about preventing roads from washing out, which isolates communities, and about building resilient local economies.

This past summer, the Salmon SuperHwy program completed four projects, restoring salmon and steelhead access to eight miles of habitat. Now fish can access the entirety of Boulder Creek in the Nestucca River watershed. Next year we'll work on Jewel Creek in the Sand Lake basin.

To date, Salmon SuperHwy has reconnected over 60 miles of habitat. Nine more projects are planned for summer 2019. We will be halfway to our audacious goal! The key to this success is community support, such as the Pelican Brewing Salmon Run. The brewery's second annual event this September drew more than 600 runners to Tillamook for a scenic course through town and a treat at the finish line: a pint of Pelican's Five Fin West Coast Pilsner, the official beer of the Salmon SuperHwy.

Learn more about the program and our projects at [salmonsuperhwy.org](http://salmonsuperhwy.org).

## From the Outgoing Council Chair

This will be my last letter to you as Chair for Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited. You'll be in great hands with Mark Rogers, an experienced volunteer leader and an all around great guy. Please welcome him to the role!

TU in Oregon has been able to accomplish a number of goals in the last four years. We've added two chapters in Klamath Falls and Coos Bay. TU has solidified our credibility with ODFW and other agencies as the "go to" conservation group for thoughtful, science-based positions and as a source of critical volunteer resources for monitoring fish populations. The council is successfully supporting a part-time staff position that is dedicated to increasing volunteer capacity in Oregon, and we've become a model for this effort across the country. TU has increased communication with members using this annual report and electronic newsletters, and we are committed to continuing these efforts to keep you apprised of conservation and fish efforts across Oregon. The list of things to do never gets any shorter. We have lots of room to grow TU in Oregon and I'll continue to help the council leaders work on that.

Oregon grassroots leaders have a great connection with TU staff. You'll see an expanded update from the conservation staff in Oregon in this report and in future newsletters. Again, Oregon leads this effort for TU across the country. Thanks to Chrysten Lambert and other staff across Oregon for making the effort to connect with all the grassroots leaders.

Finally, thanks so much to every single other volunteer leader in the chapters and the council, for all your support of TU in Oregon. We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,  
Terry Turner  
Outgoing Chair  
Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited