Thank You from Oregon’s Trout Unlimited Leaders

Trout Unlimited (TU) began as—and remains—a grassroots organization composed of local chapters. The Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited (OCTU) is an extension of the chapters, made up of local leaders who volunteer their time, energy and expertise to make TU a more effective organization across the state. The well-coordinated efforts of grassroots leaders, coupled with the skills of TU staff based here in Oregon, deliver results for our rivers and fish that no other organization can. TU is grown from the ground up in the watersheds we work to sustain.

While Oregon’s TU chapters conduct a wide variety of activities including chapter meetings, angler talks, clinics, campouts, restoration projects, youth education camps, fishing trips and more, the Council’s most important task is ensuring good communication between members, leaders and staff. To accomplish this, over the past year OCTU officers have attended chapter meeting, shared updates in the monthly newsletter, organized chapter leader conference calls and informed us with emails, Facebook posts and an occasional Action Alert. We bring this all together at the end of the year in this Annual Report.

Our advocacy team has been working hard throughout the year. It seems like the issues—protecting cold water sources and vital salmonid habitat on public lands, preventing habitat degradation from the impacts of mining and logging, protecting water quality from being degraded, to name a few—have been coming at us faster and faster and there are few simple answers. But with the combined effort of Oregon TU staff, the TU government affairs team, the OCTU advocacy committee, and chapter leaders and members, we have effectively delivered the voices of Oregon angler-conservationists to key policymakers and have achieved some dramatic victories.

In the coming year, we will continue working to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain our watersheds and fish populations in the Klamath Basin and the Salmon SuperHighway’s coastal watersheds, as well as in the Deschutes, Willamette, Sandy and other river systems throughout Oregon.

Got some ideas, a passion for an issue? Come join us on the Council. You can help with advocacy, membership, social media or the annual report. Maybe you’d like to write an article for our newsletter. Simply tell us what YOU would like to do—we welcome new volunteers, always. With over 3,000 members, friends and staff, TU has many voices here in Oregon. You will hear some of them in the pages of this Annual Report. To hear more, follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter, Holding Waters.

And please consider making a donation to help our cause. Funds donated to OCTU stay in Oregon to support our chapters along with local and statewide coldwater conservation projects.

Mark Rogers, OCTU Chair
Chrysten Lambert, TU Oregon Water Project Director

Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited Financial Report - 12 Month Period Ending September 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>$4,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporter Donations</td>
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<td>Chapter Donations to Council</td>
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<td>Salmon SuperHwy</td>
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<td>TU National Support</td>
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<td>Conservation Projects</td>
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<td>Meetings &amp; Travel</td>
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<td>Communication &amp; Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salmon SuperHwy</td>
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| Ending Balance               | $20,661 |

Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited (OCTU) received two one-time donations in 2019 resulting from a directed project donation and a memorial donation.

Chapter donations include the de-chartering of the Wild North Coast chapter and resulting funds transferred to the council.

OCTU still has a $15,000 obligation to support the Trout Unlimited Pacific Northwest Volunteer Coordinator position in 2020, which will reduce the outstanding balance accordingly.

The Salmon SuperHwy funds have been moved to a separate account in 2019 and will no longer be reported as part of OCTU general activity.

Trout Unlimited and OCTU will be moving to a new fiscal year, April 1 to March 31. This report is from the last fiscal reporting period.
Please use the envelope to contribute to Oregon Trout Unlimited. Your donations support Oregon programs and chapters. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

Message from Trout Unlimited National Board of Trustees

At the Trout Unlimited (TU) Annual Meeting recently held in Rogers Arkansas, I was elected and confirmed as a Grassroots Trustee. I was honored to be nominated by our council and humbled that the nominating committee selected me after a thorough interview process. I’m proud to serve the grassroots interests of TU and will do my best to strengthen and improve how TU accomplishes its mission and serves its members.

The primary function of the Board of Trustees is to provide oversight and guidance to the organization. It’s comprised of ten grassroots members, like me, and 22 “at large” members. Each person is selected because they bring their skills and experience to help the board accomplish its oversight function.

One of the strengths of TU is the commitment to grassroots leadership. The fact that ten positions on the Board of Trustees are dedicated to grassroots volunteers shows the strength of that commitment. I’ll do my best to honor the Oregon Council’s trust in my appointment.

See you at the next restoration project!

Terry Turner
TU Trustee
Oregon Council Vice Chair
Clackamas Chapter Treasurer
Salmon SuperHwy Project

Salmon SuperHwy partners had another great year, with nine projects implemented that removed fish passage barriers and restored access to over 23 miles of habitat in the Tillamook-Nestucca subbasin.

One such project was on Bear Creek, a Nestucca River tributary, where an undersized, failing culvert under East Beaver Creek Road was replaced with a 35-foot precast concrete bridge, reconnecting over three miles of anchor habitat for Chinook, coho, cutthroat and lamprey.

Looking forward, Pelican Brewing Company will be hosting the third annual Pelican Salmon Run on March 28 in Tillamook, benefiting and celebrating the Salmon SuperHwy. Please join us to run or volunteer at this fun event. Drink a beer, save a fish!

Salmon SuperHwy projects are a team effort. Our partner organizations help make everything happen. Please see our website www.salmonsuperhwy.org for a full list of partners.

BEAR CREEK BEFORE

BEAR CREEK AFTER

Tualatin Valley Chapter, West Side Portland Metro

Tualatin Valley Trout Unlimited (TVTU) can’t give enough thanks to the efforts of our board members, chapter members and volunteers.

Our Christmas for Coho program, now in its ninth year, involves collecting Christmas trees for placement in local rivers as salmon habitat, to benefit juvenile coho and other species. Tree collections in early January are a challenge due to the weather, but dedicated TVTU and Clackamas River Trout Unlimited (CRTU) members and families ventured out to drop off trees no matter whether rain, snow or ice might try to stop them. The minimal fee they pay helps us offset the costs of tree transport and supports other chapter activities. We collected a total of 2,576 trees this year and all have been placed into rivers or are being stored to do so later. Currently, the trees are being turned into fish habitat in the Rock Creek confluence area just off Highway 212 near Clackamas.

Monthly chapter meetings happen every second Wednesday except July and August. Meetings 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 offer a chance to win quality items like fishing gear and books, with ticket sales raising money for our projects.

TVTU, CRTU and other groups host the annual Pacific Northwest Fly Tying Rendezvous (this year on November 16 at the Portland Armory) featuring many talented tyers sharing their skills with others. The event includes silent auctions and bucket raffles that help fund a variety of natural resource and education goals.

TVTU and CRTU also hold fishing outings April through October. Many of these are day trips, but several extend into multi-day campouts on some of Oregon’s most scenic and productive waters. This is a time when chapter members can meet others in our organization, and learn or share fishing techniques. Evening gatherings are encouraged and the trips often involve one group potluck dinner, with the chapters providing a barbecued entrée course for all who attend.

Outreach is a big part of what we do. Each year, TVTU members volunteer at CRTU’s Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp on the upper Clackamas River for three days in July, where kids ages 10-14 learn about conservation, fish life cycles, etymology and—of course—how to fly fish.

Our chapter members also staffed the Tualatin Riverkeepers’ Summer Conservation Camp at Cook Park in July and August. TVTU Board Member Peter Gray presented lessons to the kids on various conservation, fish biology and ecology topics using the Trout Unlimited Stream Explorer materials.

The Tualatin River Refuge Bird Festival also provided an opportunity for TVTU members to distribute Stream Explorer magazines and other information to many of the 1,200 attendees.

Every year, several TVTU members also volunteer countless hours at numerous Veterans Service Partnership events and outings.

The chapter also has been very fortunate to have successful annual fall fundraisers with our members which enables us to conduct ongoing activities, pursue conservation projects and offer financial help to worthy recipients. This year we contributed funds to Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited, Deschutes River Alliance, WaterWatch, Native Fish Society and CRTU’s Youth Fly Fishing Camp.

Access to information on TVTU on our website and on Facebook
We hope to see you soon at our chapter meetings, events and activities!
TU Partners with Klamath Area Farmers to Protect Water and Fish

Newspaper headlines often make it seem that it’s fish versus farms in the Upper Klamath Basin, but Trout Unlimited staff working with local landowners believe otherwise.

In a basin where irrigated agriculture drives the local economy, the Endangered Species Act listing of two endemic sucker species and subsequent ecological water requirements has led to decades of tension. Farmers face water shortages and increased pressure to reduce external phosphorus loading to the suckers’ main home in upper Klamath Lake. Increased phosphorus loading drives large blue-green algae blooms in the lake that severely degrade water quality. Farms surrounding upper Klamath Lake encompass roughly 1% of the drainage area to the lake, but contribute 13% of the total external phosphorous load, typically by pumping irrigation tailwater into the lake.

But now, Trout Unlimited staff in Klamath Falls are working to change this recurring dynamic. We have forged a partnership with nearby Walker Farms to identify ways to reduce phosphorus loading from two lakeside properties farmed by the Walkers. Reusing irrigation tailwater, allowing wetlands to treat tailwater, and innovative nutrient removal technologies such as biochar filtration are being implemented. Trout Unlimited staff and partners are also monitoring water flow and nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, to use data-driven science so we can effectively implement restoration strategies.

The Walkers are dedicated to reducing their impact on water quality in the lake and are very supportive of the kinds of on-farm restoration we’re pursuing together. Monitoring and technical design efforts are ongoing there, with the hope that a collaborative approach to restoration will be effective for the long-term recovery of suckers and the economic viability of agriculture in the Klamath Basin.

Olivia Stoken, Oregon TU Water Quality Project Coordinator
The Bluebacks Chapter has been committed to the North Creek culvert replacement project for multiple years, with the support of two Trout Unlimited (TU) Embrace A Stream grants, organizational partnerships, and many passionate volunteer hours. That vision of replacing an outdated, undersized and unfunctional culvert to restore migratory passage and natural fluvial processes has, at long last, become a reality.

It was a group of anglers that originally brought attention to the outdated culvert that was blocking salmon migration in North Creek, where the watershed had experienced immense degradation to critical spawning habitat. Collaborations took root throughout the coastal community and beyond, and planning continued for five years, raising awareness and funds for the collective goal at hand: to remove the impeding barrier and allow aquatic species to move freely and functionally, as is their migratory path of life.

With multiple partners involved in stewarding this project, including the Bluebacks, Native Fish Society and Midcoast Watersheds Council, the North Creek fish passage project was completed. We succeeded in getting the outdated culvert barrier removed, and an open-arch structure was successfully implemented. Now, with 16 miles of newly-opened, high-quality habitat, species like Chinook and coho salmon, lamprey, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout will be able to move throughout the watershed, accessing upper areas of the habitat corridor—places they had been unable to reach for over 60 years.

The Bluebacks spearheaded an essential eDNA analysis of the area prior to the culvert removal. Utilizing innovative technology and our river scrambling skills, our team of volunteers waded through some swift-moving water and climbed over large logs to reach all of our designated sites. There we took water samples, to be analyzed in a lab to show which species were inhabiting that section of the stream. We conducted this baseline study to help us understand the recovery process of anadromous fish in this system. We look forward to returning to North Creek to do our secondary followup eDNA analysis testing, to see what measurable changes are occurring in that ecosystem.

We hope that the research and work done with this project will also help to improve water quality for Oregon’s coastal communities, reduce the risk of future road failures, provide continued conservation education opportunities and perpetually build TU partnerships with important local partners. The culvert has been replaced, but we acknowledge that this is also just the beginning of a new chapter to come, as we look forward to continuing our collective stewardship of this waterway into the future.
Five board members of the Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited have volunteered to review and prepare comments on a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Deschutes River Basin. The board members will be working with the Senior Policy Advisor and Staff Attorney for Trout Unlimited (TU) here in Oregon.

Since the dams were constructed in the upper Deschutes Basin and the maze of canals established to distribute that water to various irrigation districts, the iconic upper Deschutes River and its fishery have become, in essence, an irrigation canal.

The regulated flow of water released from Wickiup Reservoir has ranged from about 25 cfs in winter to as much as 1,900 cfs in summer. The singular objective of those water releases is to support the water needs of the North Unit Irrigation District located in Jefferson County, in and around Madras. This water has enabled farming of 59,000 irrigated acres among 980 patrons. Crop commodity sales yield more than $40 million a year in the county, according to a May 2017 report called Agriculture & Irrigation in Oregon's Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.

But it is also important to remember what we have lost. Before Wickiup Dam was completed in 1947, the upper Deschutes, due to its largely spring-fed sources, enjoyed one of the most constant year-round flows of any major river in the nation. Average summer flows were 730 cfs and winter flows 660 cfs (Hardin-Davis 1991). Since the river has been repurposed, the regulated flows extirpated bull trout in the Upper Deschutes in the late 1950s and caused the severe decline of native redband trout. Flow fluctuations have also significantly widened the channel of the upper Deschutes, affecting the habitat and survival of the spotted frog.

“The HCP is a large scale planning effort that will help the city of Prineville and the Irrigation District members of the Deschutes Basin Board of Control meet their current and future water needs while enhancing fish and wildlife habitat,” according to US Fish and Wildlife. “The HCP will eventually become part of an application for one or more Endangered Species Act incidental take permits that would authorize the incidental take of listed species caused by covered activities.” The three currently listed federally designated endangered species this is expected to affect are the spotted frog, bull trout and steelhead.

Three years in the making, the draft HCP and the accompanying draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were released on October 4. They are 871 and 1,182 pages respectively.

For some perspective on the amount of land included, the HCP covers about 10,700 square miles or about 11% of Oregon's total area.

Among the various conservation measures proposed in the draft HCP are the future flows to be released from Wickiup Dam. These, along with Crooked River flows, are areas of significant concern to our Deschutes Redbands TU members. From our perspective, it is important for the HCP to include the scientific basis for any proposed flows and how they relate to improving frog and fish habitat. The research shows that with the effective use of various tools like piping, on-farm conservation and water marketing, there is enough water in the basin for agriculture, rivers and the cities.

After considering public comments, the final HCP is expected in the spring of 2020. The conservation measures it contains will set the legally binding direction for the Deschutes River over the next 30 years. These are critical times for our river. If you want to learn more, including links to the full draft HCP and EIS, go to http://bit.ly/DeschutesHCP

The primary project for Clackamas River Trout Unlimited (CRTU) continues to be our Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp, held yearly on the last weekend of July in the Mt. Hood National Forest. CRTU is one of only two chapters nationwide hosting a remote camp in the woods.

Volunteers are so critical to the success of our camp. We maintain a very good instructor-to-camper ratio, so the kids get the benefit of volunteer experience and instruction. In addition, volunteers manage all the logistics of housing, cooking and transportation for everyone involved. It's just a small tent camp in the woods—for 40 people!

At this year's camp, CEO Chris Wood flew in from Trout Unlimited (TU) national headquarters in Virginia to spend a day with us. He gave campers and parents a great presentation on public lands, pointing out how our camp is an excellent example of how public lands can be used.

Young anglers that attend the camp range in age from 10 to 14. They arrive as strangers and have the opportunity to forge friendships that last forever. One of our camp graduates is now a sophomore at the University of Oregon and is the leader of TU's Five Rivers Chapter at the university.

This camp is our most labor-intensive and costly activity, but it is an incredibly rewarding experience as we teach youngsters basic angling skills and introduce them to their role as stewards of this valuable natural environment.

Our camp is generously supported by Portland General Electric, US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife.
Contact Your Local Chapter:

**Tualatin Valley Chapter**
- President: Lori Day
- Email: tvtmembers@gmail.com
- Web: tualatinvalley.tu.org
- Location: Portland Metro West

**Bluebacks Chapter**
- President: Troy Rintz
- Email: bluebacksTU@gmail.com
- Web: bluebacks.org
- Location: Corvallis

**Clackamas River Chapter**
- President: Ruth Ann Tsukuda
- Email: info@clackamasrivertu.org
- Web: clackamasrivertu.org
- Location: Portland Metro East

**South Coast Cutthroat Chapter**
- President: Gary Vonderohe
- Email: southcoastcuts@gmail.com
- Location: Coos Bay

**Klamath Chapter**
- President: Nell Scott
- Email: Nell.Scott@tu.org
- Web: klamathtu.com
- Location: Klamath Falls

**Redsides Chapter**
- President: Open
- Email: info@theredsides.org
- Web: theredsides.org
- Location: Eugene

**Deschutes Chapter**
- President: Shaun Pigott
- Email: spigott@teleport.com
- Web: deschutes.tu.org
- Location: Bend

Thank you to our amazing Oregon business and guide members:
- BlackStrap Industries, Inc
- Dean Finnerty Guides and Outfitters
- Fly Water Media
- Guanaja Getaways
- H&H Outfitters
- LaunchPack
- Oregon Outdoor Excursions
- Press Pros
- Rainbow Bend Guide Service
- Royal Treatment Fly Shop
- Russell Randall Guide Service
- Soul River Runs Deep
- The Rogue Angler, LLC
- The Hook Fly Shop

Follow your local Chapter on Instagram or Facebook!

Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 740
Gladstone, Oregon 97027-0740

Western Regional Meeting
www.tu.org/western-regional
May 29-30 2020
Taos, NM
See you there!!

Name
Business
Address
City, State ZIP