



OREGON COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Update from Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited Chair Mark Rogers

Every year, I am inspired by migrating salmon as they return to our streams to spawn. I have vivid early memories of this marvelous event. My grandfather taught me to fly fish on the regularly stocked Gold Creek, a tributary of the Methow River in Washington state, where it was safe enough to teach a young boy and angling success was near guaranteed. In addition to the hatchery rainbows, there were also native Cutthroat, not-so-native Brook Trout and an occasional Dolly Varden in Gold Creek. But in mid-summer, the stars of the river, silver Spring Chinook would arrive. It seemed like every big “hole” had one, two, sometimes 5, of these, big, bright steely fish. Since then, I have never lost my amazement at the wondrous creatures. I joined TU as an adult because the organization had the same view, as evidenced in the TU mission statement: “To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.”

I see this same passion for rivers, streams, and fish in my friends who volunteer to repair habitats and to teach angling and stream conservation to youth. I see it too in the staff projects in Northeast Oregon

and in the upper Klamath. In fact, a signal moment came this year for the Klamath as chronicled in Chris Wood’s 2024 virtual “State of TU” address. There Chris powerfully described TU’s role in the campaign to breach the Klamath dams, thereby allowing migrating salmon a return to the Oregon section of the Klamath for the first time in more than 100 years.

During my years of volunteering, TU has grown both in size and reach. Once largely a volunteer organization, TU now has a professional staff that channels millions of dollars into habitat projects. TU has invested in 20 staff in Oregon. Many are involved in designing, planning and managing on-the-ground and in-the-water projects. Other staff members work on securing project funding or on policies to lay the foundations for our work.



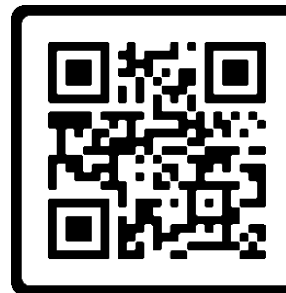
Although the addition of staff members over the years has been instrumental in TU’s many successes, volunteer members remain at the heart of TU, often putting on the less glamorous finishing touches like planting trees and installing signage. Chapter volunteers are and will continue to guide large projects too, as demonstrated by the Clackamas River TU Cub Creek restoration project.

Thank you to all of the TU staff and volunteers who do this work. Oregon Trout Unlimited has many voices, over 4500 members, friends, and staff on our mailing list. You can hear some of these voices and see their work here in our Annual Report.

We encourage you to participate in your local Chapter events, Chapter boards, and/or the TU Oregon Council. Don’t forget to follow your local Chapter or the Council in our newsletters and social media as well. Remember that user engagement such as “liking” and commenting on your Chapter or Council’s page drives higher ranking in social media algorithms,

meaning those pages will be seen by more people. Consider interacting with your favorite TU page—it’s free to you and may help them spread the word!

Last but definitely not least, please do consider donating. Funds donated to the Oregon Council stay in Oregon to support local chapters and in-state projects.



The Council has budgeted \$10k to match Chapter project funding for this year. Every contribution helps! You can donate by using this code, by mail or on our website at <http://tuoregon.org/donate/>.

Thank you for your support, Mark.



Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited Statement of Finances April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

REVENUE	Workplace Giving	\$ 2,834
	Individual Contributions	\$ 4,557
	Member Dues	\$ 8,285
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$15,676
EXPENSES	Operations	\$ 1,129
	Member Outreach	\$ 856
	Licenses, Fees, Insurance	\$ 410
	Leadership Development	\$ 2,384
	Council Meetings	\$ 1,873
	Conservation Grants to Chapters	\$ 9,175
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,829
SUMMARY	Beginning Balance	\$33,220
	Total Revenue	\$15,676
	Total Expenses	\$15,829
	ENDING BALANCE	\$33,067

The Oregon Council is an all-volunteer staff, with support from the Oregon national staff and Trout Unlimited Volunteer Operations. The Council supports our six TU chapters with operations support, leading statewide advocacy and providing financial support in the way of conservation grants to chapters.

Our largest expense outside of conservation grants is member outreach. Outreach expenses are driven by email and annual reports sent by mail. In 2024, the Council Board agreed to limit mailed annual reports to those members with no valid email address. Digital copies will be sent to members with valid email addresses.



Revenues are driven by individual and workplace giving contributions, and a portion of member dues.

Scan the code to donate today!

Iron Gate - Before and After



Oregon Trout Unlimited Staff Report

When I sit down to review Trout Unlimited's work in Oregon every year, I am astounded every time by the incredible diversity of ecosystems in which we work, the wide range of species that benefit from that work, and the communities who care deeply about our watersheds: the fish, their water, and their infrastructure. I'm happy to say that 2024 was no exception.

This year brought what may be one of the greatest highlights of my career. On a brisk fall day less than a month after the final coffer dam was breached, I found myself standing next to a small tributary stream and saw the first Chinook Salmon spawning above the four former Klamath dam sites. I will readily admit to tearing up as we watched these fish that so powerfully represent the success of decades of advocacy by Tribal leaders, TU staff and volunteers, and so many others. The salmon returned after being blocked for more than 100 years, not because of a single person or organization, but because there are vast networks of people who make the impossible possible and work tirelessly to do so.

With the dams now gone, TU's Klamath program has redoubled our commitment to restoring habitat, agriculture, and water supplies in the Upper Basin. This work benefits water quality in Klamath Lake, wildfire resilience, and is just as critical to restoring populations of endangered Bull Trout and native suckers as it is for returning androgynous species. Our staff working in the basin are committed to expanding the scope and impact of their work to fully take advantage of the opportunity to rebuild fish populations and ecosystems throughout the Klamath watershed.

Across Oregon, I am lucky to witness the magic and commitment of Trout Unlimited and the communities of people that our work brings together. On the North Coast, the Salmon SuperHwy partnership completed four projects this year, bringing their total since inception to 54 projects completed and more than 132 stream miles opened. All of this in just a few years. That is what happens when nontraditional partners

come together to work with committed partners like the Tillamook County Roads Department, the Tillamook County Creamery Association, and private timber companies amongst others.

As we continue to restore habitat, instream flows, and water quality in Oregon, we never lose sight of how important building the next generation of stewards for our rivers and fish is. Darek Staab has designed an impressive and impactful curriculum for middle grade school children in some of central Oregon's most diverse schools—a curriculum that teaches both in the classroom and in the field each year and that melds science, traditional ecological knowledge, and the joy of nature. Further north in the John Day and Grande Ronde watersheds, our Northeast Oregon Hand Crew Initiative group stays as busy as beavers in partnership with the NW Youth Corp, working with young adults to develop professional skills and offer experience in stream restoration. The Hand Crew Initiative's work was highlighted by Patagonia in a great video (posted on YouTube) under the title "Leave It to Beavers," as well as in a story of the same title on Patagonia website's in the Activism section. Each of these connections help us to advocate as a community for clean water and healthy watersheds.

TU proudly brings our scientific expertise, field program experience, and community engagement to Salem each year, helping to shape important decisions in the Oregon Legislature. In the 2024 session, we secured \$282,735 for ODFW's Klamath Fish Reintroduction program, thereby ensuring a team of four people—not just one agency biologist—will oversee and monitor the return of native fish following dam removal. We helped shape and support a new \$600 million endowment fund for natural resources restoration in Oregon (Senate Bill 1561). We coordinated with the four TU Chapters in the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Council of TU to oppose and ultimately kill a bill that would have gutted Oregon's "towed watersports" program which protects native fish and water quality in a key portion of the Willamette River. Wild Steelheaders United continued regular advocacy and science communication

with managers and the public while advocating for removal of the four Lower Snake River Dams, improved fish passage in the Elk River Basin, and to balance jet boat recreation on the Upper Rogue River with the protection of sensitive spawning and rearing habitats for native fish. You can read more about the 2024 legislative session in a blog post by TU Oregon Policy Director James Fraser available on the Blog section of wildsteelheaders.org under the title “Legislative Summary: Oregon’s 2024 Legislative Session.” Or web search: “Wild Steelheaders United Blog”.

Finally, I wanted to note that the campaign to permanently protect the Owyhee Canyonlands as a national monument, or through legislation, continues. Our own Sophia Kaelke even appeared on a billboard supporting the effort!

Despite the challenges of a changing climate, the future for Oregon’s native fish, wildlife and people is bright. As we have shown in 2024, we can get hard things done. And when we do the fish will respond, taking advantage of every opportunity we offer. Healthy rivers mean healthy communities and we are proud to partner with every TU member and supporter to build that bright future.

Chrysten Rivard
Trout Unlimited Oregon Director



The Salmon Superhwy



In the early days of the Salmon SuperHwy, we had completed just a handful of projects, replacing small, undersized culverts with larger, stream bed culverts or bridges that accommodate the wide range of flows that occur on the North Oregon Coast. In 2015, there was a 50-year flood event, not unusual for Tillamook County, that blew out several key community roads and cost Tillamook County over \$15 million in emergency funding to build temporary bridges across washed out roads critical to the local community. The projects that had been completed under the new Salmon SuperHwy project team saw no impact from the storm and flooding. Our case was made and the benefit to fish and community couldn’t have been more clear.

The Salmon SuperHwy project is the single biggest combined fish conservation/economic development partnership on the Oregon Coast. Our goal is to reconnect important salmon habitat on 6 rivers in the Tillamook-Nestucca area that have been blocked over time. It will reconnect 95% of historic habitat for each of 6 species of ocean-going fish including Chinook, steelhead, coho, chum, sea-run cutthroat and lamprey. This unique landscape-scale strategy, combining the latest science with local expertise to determine the highest conservation return on investment.

Salmon SuperHwy creates and supports hundreds of local jobs, invests millions of dollars into the North Coast’s economy, and greatly benefits the local transportation system. We stimulate outdoor recreation and fishing sectors by improving spawning success and juvenile survival. Salmon SuperHwy benefits the dairy, agriculture, and forest products industries by reducing chronic flooding and erosion, and greatly increases storm resilience throughout Tillamook County.

SSH has completed 54 projects to date, creating 340 local jobs and reconnecting over 130 miles of habitat. More projects are planned for 2025!

Samson - Before and After



Old culverts can be passage barriers for excess flow or perched elevation.
The bridge accommodates the full stream width.



Tualatin Valley Chapter, Portland Metro - West Side

For nearly 30 years the Tualatin Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TVTU) has been actively and successfully dedicated to Trout Unlimited's mission to conserve, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We're proud to continue that legacy this year and going forward.

Our well-attended monthly meetings have featured a wide variety of speakers covering an excellent mix of fishing and conservation topics. Our enhanced IT capabilities have allowed us to provide Zoom broadcast and recording of meeting presentations to better serve and engage our over 600 members, no matter where they live and what their schedules are. We also produce a monthly newsletter that is emailed to over 700 members and supporters in Oregon and beyond. Our chapter Facebook page, followed by 630 people at last count (30% of whom are female) features our popular Newsletter in addition to a variety of information about volunteer conservation opportunities and related events.

In addition to our own work, we are proud to contribute financially to many other conservation organizations. These include the TU Salmon Superhighway, the Western Rivers Conservancy, and the Tualatin River Watershed Council. In particular, we are very pleased to join with the Native Fish Society in offering two Wild Fish For All Academic Scholarships for students in Fisheries Conservation.

Other highlights would be that our chapter members have supported various fishing and conservation events such as the NW Fly Tyers Expo and the Clackamas River Chapter's Summer Kids Camp throughout the year. Additionally, we've advertised through our newsletter and Facebook page many Volunteer Conservation Opportunities throughout Oregon and the Pacific NW, such as those organized by the Native Fish Society, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Clackamas River TU Chapter and Basin Council, Friends of Trees, and Clean Water Services.

Our President, Peter Gray, is honored to have been selected as the Oregon Council representative on the Trout Unlimited National Leadership Council. He is also a member of the Communication Work Group and was appointed co-chair of the Climate Change Work Group. As leader of the Module Development Team, he guided the creation of Climate Change Resource Modules for Being a Climate Change Coordinator, Climate Change Science, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Advocacy, and Climate Change Education.

Finally, we celebrate and thank those who are stepping down for their service. Two valued long-term board members, treasurer Mike Gentry and raffle chair Ron Reinebach, will be retiring this year. In addition, secretary Brett Dunnam is stepping down as is board member Matt Erickson. Best wishes to them and a special thank you to each for their service!

Redsides Chapter, Eugene

The Redsides Chapter of TU - based in Eugene/Springfield - is slowly gaining momentum following a multi-year hiatus as a result of the pandemic. We are sending monthly email newsletters promoting local events, conservation updates, volunteer opportunities with partner organizations, and fishing reports and our board meets virtually on a monthly basis. We held several in-person meetings last spring and will be re-engaging in person again in early-2025. Between now and then, we are excited for several local film events and are planning an in-person strategic planning session early in 2025.

In all cases, we are looking for more members, attendance, ideas, input, and collaboration! Please reach out to chapter President Jesse Robbins at jesselancerobbins@gmail.com to join the email list and get involved.

Jesse Robbins, President
Redsides Chapter Trout Unlimited

Clackamas River Chapter, Portland Metro - East Side

Each year as September rolls around, I begin to experience a vague sense of anxiety as Clackamas River Trout Unlimited embarks on another year of activities. You might think that after many successful years of conservation projects, meetings, youth camps, educational programs, community engagement, and fishing outings, I would greet the new year with confidence that all will go exceedingly well. Not so!

As the President of our Chapter, I worry about timelines, speakers, communication, activities, volunteer hours, workload, our reputation and anything else that could go wrong. Then I say to myself, "Take a deep breath, lighten up, and think about our strength and those things that make CRTU interesting, inviting, productive, and challenging." Fortunately, a look back on our previous experience always helps to guide me in future efforts. As I think about past successes and future goals five words guide my thoughts: Purpose, People, Projects, Partnership, and Planning.

PURPOSE: CRTU focuses its work on goals articulated by TU, "To protect, reconnect, restore and sustain cold water fisheries and their watersheds." Obviously, our conservation focus is on the geographic area with which we share our name--the Clackamas watershed. One way we address this focus is through our monthly meetings and offering educational programs that address the needs of the Clackamas and other regional watersheds.

PEOPLE: Our members, volunteers, and interested community members are the backbone of CRTU. Engagement then is an important focus for us. Monthly meetings provided an opportunity for social networking and education. Topics for presentations alternated between conservation and fly-fishing. Although many of our efforts focus on the present interests of people, we remain dedicated to the future as well. This year, we again offered our annual Youth Conservation and Fly-Fishing Camp that familiarized youngsters with environments that foster healthy fish. Youth

between the ages of 10 and 14 attended this four-day camp and joined a large staff of volunteers to learn, have fun and experience the outdoors in ways that may have been new. It is always a rewarding experience, and particularly so this year as we witnessed the enthusiasm of these future stewards of our environment.

PROJECTS: CRTU has managed two major projects this year. To restore fish passage, we helped remove a dam on the North Fork of Eagle Creek. In addition, we made significant progress on our largest project to date, the Cub Creek Restoration Project. We relocated logs and restored natural river processes, beginning the creation of an environment to support habitat for threatened salmon and steelhead.



PARTNERSHIP: Rarely do volunteer organization membership hold all the knowledge, skills and expertise to meet its needs for goal accomplishment. CRTU has been fortunate to foster positive relationships with many organizations enhancing our abilities for productive work. Many of our volunteers represent CRTU on several fish, water and environmental organizations. Conversely agencies, groups and individuals have joined us as partners in our projects as well enhancing our ability to meet our programmatic responsibilities. These partners include individuals, local, regional, state, federal, public and private entities, among others.

PLANNING: Over the past year, we have been

reminded of the importance of planning. As we address immediate needs, we also have to remain cognizant of future needs and challenges. As projects wind down, we need to identify future efforts. It reminds us of the importance of periodically reviewing our goals and objectives as we explore new opportunities.

As I look back on this past year, I am incredibly proud of the work our CRTU volunteers have accomplished. Together as an organization, we have met challenges, learned new things, embraced new people, and had a lot of fun.

Ruth Ann Tsukuda, President
Clackamas River Trout Unlimited



Youth Fly-Fishing Camp

Blueback Chapter, Corvallis

“That’ll fish!” I hear Kellen say to the boy who has just reached his fly into the pond, wishing for a passing trout. Nearby, Alec is with another young angler helping him tie a fly onto the tippet. I catch a bit of their conversation as the young man explains to the boy tactics for attracting fish. And in the corner of the pond, Chloe sits with her new best friend watching as the 10-year-old pulls a succession of eager bluegills from the water.

What a perfect day! A group of Bluebacks are at a private pond helping with the Summer 2024 Clackamas River Chapter Youth Camp which is 20-years running and going strong. Despite this long run, this is the first time that the Bluebacks have been able to help. More importantly, Kellen, Alec, and Chloe are founding members of the new Oregon State University TU Costa 5 Rivers Club. Part of a TU-national effort, the Costa 5 Rivers College Program joins a team of university students with a local chapter of TU so that the two groups can work together on TU-related projects. Participating students create their own fun events and also become involved in chapter activities. They are also eligible to receive discounts from companies that support the 5 Rivers College Program like Costa, Simms, and Orvis.

On paper it would seem natural that a 5 Rivers Club would form at Oregon State University and link to the Bluebacks given the school’s strong

Fish and Wildlife Program. But students are busy and already have multiple obligations related to their studies or social activities. Starting the OSU 5 Rivers Club required the right students to put their shoulders to the wheel and get the ball rolling. And this year it all came together with the Club participating in the Blueback fundraising event, a river cleanup on the South Santiam, and the Youth Camp. The two OSU 5 Rivers founders, Kellen Woodcock and Roberto Ponce Velez, are now members of the Blueback board helping us to realize opportunities to involve more OSU students in TU events.

It seems likely that Oregon could see the creation of new 5 Rivers Clubs with students from the other state academic institutions affiliating with other state TU chapters. Keys to making this work include finding the right students who are passionate about fishing and service, adjusting chapter activities to accommodate student schedules, helping with fishy skills clinics on campus, and just going fishing. The Bluebacks and the OSU 5 Rivers Club are ready to help other interested university-chapter teams get started in developing the cross generational ties bound together by the love of preserving cold water fisheries.

Rick Colwell, President
Blueback Chapter Trout Unlimited

Contact Information

TUALATIN VALLEY CHAPTER

President	Peter Gray
Email	tvstumembers@gmail.com
Web	tualatinvalley.tu.org
Location	Portland Metro - West

BLUEBACKS CHAPTER

President	Rick Colwell
Email	bluebackstU@gmail.com
Web	www.bluebackstu.org
Location	Corvallis

CLACKAMAS RIVER CHAPTER

President	Ruth Ann Tsukuda
Email	crtufishing@gmail.com
Web	www.clackamasrivertu.org
Location	Portland Metro - East

SOUTH COAST CUTTHROATS CHAPTER

President	Travis Landon
Email	southcoastcuts@gmail.com
Web	tinyurl.com/mssjp36b
Location	Coquille

REDSIDES CHAPTER

President	Jesse Robbins
Email	jesselancerobbins@gmail.com
Web	www.facebook.com/theredsides
Location	Eugene

DESCHUTES REDBANDS CHAPTER

President	Steven Goldberg
Email	baetis1@me.com
Web	deschutesredbands.org/
Location	Bend

OREGON COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

President	Mark Rogers
Email	tuoregon@gmail.com
Web	tuoregon.org/
Address	P.O. Box 740, Gladstone, OR 97027

TROUT UNLIMITED

Staff Directory	www.tu.org/staff/
Web	www.tu.org/
Address	1700 N Moore St, Suite 2005 Arlington, VA 22209



MANY THANKS TO OUR AMAZING OREGON BUSINESS AND GUIDE MEMBERS

Paul's Pipes

Royal Treatment Fly Fishing

Alpine Archery and Fly

The Rogue Angler, LLC

Minam Store Outfitters

Base Camp Oregon

The Caddis Fly Angling Shop

Sawyer Paddles and Oars