

# Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program

## 2016-2017 Executive Summary



### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This annual legislative report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of The Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. STEP activities are integral to accomplishing Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) fish management objectives. During the 2016-2017 period, statewide STEP volunteer efforts involved 2,250 young and 3,850 adult volunteers equaling 39 full-time equivalents (FTEs). STEP volunteer efforts are valued at \$2,100,000.

The types of projects conducted through STEP reflect the diverse ways that volunteers can assist with fish and habitat management needs throughout Oregon. The issues and priorities within individual watersheds are often unique to those areas and the focus of STEP efforts can vary across the state. Generally, activities can be grouped into four main categories.

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**\$2,100,000**  
 annually



#### EDUCATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

**57,800** people participated in STEP educational activities

These include trainings, classes, tours, presentations, workshops, and public events. Oregon ranks number 2 in the nation for number of classrooms using classroom incubators through STEP's Fish Eggs-to-Fry program.



#### INVENTORY AND MONITORING

Nearly **700** volunteers contributed to fish monitoring and inventory efforts

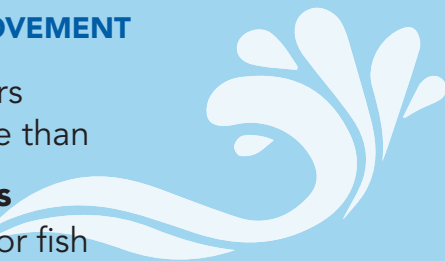
Participants logged **7,250 hours** in **95 projects** statewide, assessing sport fisheries, conducting fish passage inspections and surveying habitat in streams and rivers



#### HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

STEP volunteers improved more than **500 miles** of waterways for fish

**1075 participants** improved Oregon's fish habitat by fish passage, in-stream, riparian and fish carcass placement projects, and the Keep Oregon Rivers Clean (KORC) program.



#### FISH CULTURE

**3.8 million** Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead and trout were reared or released by STEP volunteers

These fish were used for enhancement or augmentation purposes. Of these, nearly **2.2 million fish** were fed and cared for by STEP volunteers before release and **7,000 fish** were collected for broodstock





Making fish prints as part of the salmon studies offered by NWF at Trinity Lutheran School

Since 1981, **370,000+** volunteers  
have contributed nearly **3.75 million hours** to  
approximately **42,200 STEP projects**



Sweet Home High School students from the South Santiam Youth Watershed Council pitch steelhead carcasses in Wiley Creek

## STEP BACKGROUND

The Oregon Legislature established STEP in 1981 as a program within ODFW. Its mission is to “achieve the recovery and sustainability of the state’s native salmon and trout through the education of Oregon’s citizens and their involvement with fish management efforts.” Since then, more than 370,000 adult and youth volunteers have contributed nearly 3.75 million hours to an estimated 42,200 STEP projects

STEP is funded by a combination of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) grant program and ODFW funds. The program consists of a coordinator and administrative assistant in the ODFW headquarters office in Salem and 11 STEP biologists located throughout the state. The coordinator and assistant divide their time between the STEP program and ODFW’s Restoration and Enhancement Program.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 13-member STEP Advisory Committee (STAC) is comprised of citizens appointed by the Governor. The committee meets quarterly around the state and advises ODFW on policy and the implementation of STEP. The committee administers the STAC Mini-Grant Program, funded through a \$50,000 biennial grant from the ODFW Fish Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program. Mini-Grants are available in amounts up to \$2,000 for projects that further the goals of STEP. From October 2016 to September 2017, meetings were held in Salem, Salem, and Medford.

During this time period, two representatives were reappointed, and three positions were vacated.

The full version of this report is available online at [www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/step/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/step/) under “Annual Progress Reports” heading.