

Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program

2017-2018 Executive Summary



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This annual legislative report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of The Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. STEP activities are integral to accomplishing Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) fish management objectives. During the 2017-2018 period, statewide STEP volunteer efforts involved 2,250 young and 4,950 adult volunteers equaling 38 full-time equivalents (FTEs). STEP volunteer efforts are valued at \$2,830,000.

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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\$2,830,000
 annually



EDUCATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

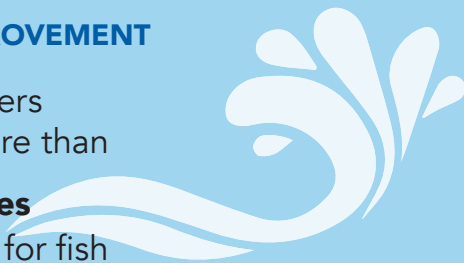
66,350 people participated in STEP educational activities



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.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

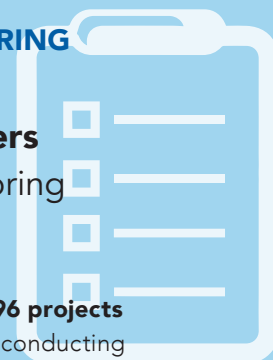
STEP volunteers improved more than
500 miles of waterways for fish



650 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.

INVENTORY AND MONITORING

Nearly **660** volunteers contributed to fish monitoring and inventory efforts



Participants logged **8,150** hours in **96** projects statewide, assessing sport fisheries, conducting fish passage inspections and surveying habitat in streams and rivers

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 **2.4** million fish were fed and cared for by STEP volunteers before release and **5,000** fish were collected for broodstock



Volunteers with Oregon Youth Conservation Corps assist with trout sampling in East Lake.

Since 1981, **380,000+** volunteers
have contributed more than **3.8** million hours
to approximately **43,700** STEP projects



Volunteers assist ODFW with sampling of fish populations in urban streams.

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 380,000 adult and youth volunteers have contributed more than 3.8 million hours to an estimated 43,700 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 Governor appoints a 13-member STEP Advisory Committee (STAC), which is comprised of citizens representing all of Oregon. 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 2017 to September 2018, meetings were held in Salem, Newport, and Reedsport. During this time period, three representatives were appointed, and one position was vacated.

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