



Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program Administrative Rule Revisions

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Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

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STEP Administrative Rule Revisions

- STEP rules have not been updated since 1986
- Several ODFW policies have been adopted since 1986
 - Native Fish Conservation Policy
 - ODFW Hatchery Management Policy
 - Climate and Ocean Change Policy
 - Conservation and Recovery plans
 - Volunteer management policies
- For these reasons, initiated rulemaking in 2021

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Public Involvement & Timeline

- Developed a Subcommittee
 - Two STAC Members, three STEP Biologists, STEP Coordinator, Recreational Fisheries Program Manager, and Fish Division Rules Coordinator
- STAC meetings
 - February, May, October of 2022 and May of 2023
- Meetings with multiple angler groups
- Multiple conversations with interested members of the public
- Public Webinar, February of 2023
- Tribal Coordination
 - Letters sent out to all nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.
 - ODFW Staff met with Tribal Natural Resources working group in April of 2023
- Administrative Rule Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment

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STEP Definitions

Added	Removed	Updated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acclimation - Committee - Mark - Stocking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational Project <u>Not used in proposed rules</u> - Broodstock Development Project - Life Cycle <u>Listed under ORS 496.430 or OAR 635-007-0501</u> - Commission - Department - Rehabilitation - STEP - Supplementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement • Updated to be consistent with the definition listed in ORS 496.430

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New Rules Added

Salmon Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee Membership & Committee Meetings

- Defines number of Board members, qualifications, and regional areas
- Defines number of Committee meetings per year which are conducted under public meetings laws

STEP Volunteers

- Specifies that Department will provide training to volunteers
- Clarifies that all volunteers are subject to department's policies governing volunteers

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New Rules Added

Propagation of fish through STEP

- All STEP propagation projects must be implemented consistent with:
 - ✓ Native Fish Conservation Policy
 - ✓ Hatchery Management Policy
 - ✓ Fish Health Management Policy
 - ✓ The Climate and Ocean Change Policy
- Disposition of fish is consistent with that listed in the Native Fish Conservation Policy
- Water rights for certified STEP projects



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Key Proposed Updates

STEP Community Advisors

- Provide education and training to volunteers
- Defines department staff role in reviewing STEP projects

STEP Project Application

- Updated list of types of STEP projects
 - Includes Classroom Egg Incubation



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Key Proposed Updates

STEP Project Approval

- Duration of STEP projects
- List of requirements for STEP projects

STEP Revocation or Amendment of Project Approval

- Provides the department the ability to Amend not just Revoke projects
- Provides STAC an opportunity to provide objective recommendations

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Amendment to Rules

Original draft language

(3) ~~[A separate application is required for each proposed project or project site.]~~ **Projects which are initiated and administered by Department do not need to apply under this section unless the Department is seeking certification for the water right as identified in ORS 537.142 to support a project that will be implemented with the assistance of volunteers.**

Amended language

(3) ~~[A separate application is required for each proposed project or project site.]~~ **Projects which are initiated and administered by the Department do not need to apply under this section unless the Department is seeking a water right exemption as identified in ORS 537.142 to support a project that will be implemented with the assistance of volunteers.**

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Deletion of OAR 635-009-0125 through 635-009-0150

635-009-0125, Egg Incubation and Fish Program Project Proposal

- Definitions are covered in Program Definitions
- Information of what should be included in STEP project applications now covered under Project Application.

635-009-0130, Egg Incubation and Fish Program Project Duration

- Covered under proposed STEP Project Approvals

635-009-0135, Egg Incubation and Fish Program Number of Fish Released

- Covered under proposed STEP Project Approval.

635-009-0140, Egg Incubation and Fish Program General Considerations

- Propagation of fish through STEP covers the following:
 - Unlawful to transport or possess live fish or eggs without appropriate permit
 - Department may adjust numbers of eggs in the event of a shortage
 - Eggs and Fish are the property of the Department

635-009-0150, Egg Incubation and Disposal of Fish and Fish Products

- Covered under proposed Propagation of fish through STEP



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The proposed rules will not impact volunteer participation

New language in the proposed rules defines the qualifications and role of STAC members and encourages all citizens to apply

New language in the proposed rules states that STEP Volunteers must comply with ODFW Volunteer Policy, including the ODFW Volunteer Code of Conduct.

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Do the revised rules affect STEP hatchery programs?

All STEP hatcheries are currently operating under existing ODFW policy.



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Exhibit F: STEP Administrative Rule Revisions

Draft Motion:

Move to approve the administrative rules as proposed by staff in Amended Attachment 3.

Effective Date:

Upon filing.

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