

# Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program

## 2019-2020 Executive Summary



### LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This annual legislative report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of The Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. STEP activities are integral to accomplishing Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) fish management objectives. During the 2019-2020 period, statewide STEP volunteer efforts involved nearly 720 young and 1,500 adult volunteers equaling 18 full-time equivalents (FTEs). STEP volunteer efforts are valued at \$1,320,000. Due to COVID-19, this is nearly half of the normal involvement.

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.



#### EDUCATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

**29,000** people participated in STEP educational activities

These include trainings, classes, tours, presentations, workshops, and public events. Due to COVID restrictions participation was about one-third of normal as events were canceled and schools moved to distance learning.

#### HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

STEP volunteers improved more than **400** miles of waterways for fish

**415 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 **310** volunteers contributed to fish monitoring and inventory efforts

Participants logged **4,000 hours** in **157 projects** statewide, assessing sport fisheries, conducting fish passage inspections and surveying habitat in streams and rivers.

#### FISH CULTURE

**2.5** 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 **1.9 million fish** were fed and cared for by STEP volunteers before release and **5,200 fish** were collected for broodstock.



*Volunteers collecting brood at Indian Creek Hatchery.*

Since 1981, **388,000+** volunteers  
have contributed more than **3.9** million hours  
to approximately **46,500** STEP projects



*Preparing to deliver eggs to classroom incubators.*

## 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 388,000 adult and youth volunteers have contributed more than 3.9 million hours to an estimated 46,500 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 2019 to September 2020 meetings were held in Salem and virtually. During this time period, no representatives were appointed.

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.