The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Volunteer Program is to actively involve citizens as volunteers in the protection and enhancement of Oregon’s fish and wildlife resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) has six volunteer programs that provide opportunities for the citizens of Oregon to become actively involved in a broad and diverse spectrum of fish and wildlife activities. This report is designed to showcase the work and accomplishments of these volunteers and to report the extent of their time and commitment. A summary of the volunteer contribution made to ODFW in 2013 is outlined in the table below.

**At ODFW we recognize that volunteers:**

- Bring enthusiasm, energy, and ideas to our agency.
- Donate thousands of hours, which increases the quality and types of projects and services ODFW can offer.
- Are advocates for our agency and for the resource; they support our programs and work to protect and enhance fish and wildlife.
- Make a difference in their communities by actively participating in resource management activities.
- Bring a great range of expertise and skills to our agency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ODFW Statewide Volunteer Programs</th>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
<th>Volunteer Hours Contributed</th>
<th>Dollar Value of Volunteer Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Host Program</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>*36,995</td>
<td>$1,024,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region Volunteer Program</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>*14,439</td>
<td>$399,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program ($STEP)</td>
<td>9,287</td>
<td>113,891</td>
<td>$3,153,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic and Angler Education Program</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>8,857</td>
<td>$283,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Education Program</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>29,075</td>
<td>$1,029,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Skills Education Program</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>$47,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,715</strong></td>
<td><strong>204,948</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,938,796</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Not all hours captured*
Volunteer Host Program

Volunteer Hosts are RV owners who live and work for a month or more at one of our ODFW wildlife areas, hatcheries, or offices. ODFW provides hook-ups and the volunteers donate an average of 20 hours per week per person during their stay. The Volunteer Host Program is coordinated by one member of staff at a total of 0.50 FTE.

There are currently 46 locations with Host sites throughout the state. Duties vary widely by location and time of year, but may include grounds maintenance, feeding fish, farming for wildlife, greeting the public, entering data, and assisting with outreach events.

Number of Volunteer Hosts: 127

Value of Volunteer Time for 2014: $27.69 X \( *36,995 \) hours = $1,024,392.00

Volunteers are equal to a Fish and Wildlife Technician, Step 4, at $27.69 per hour. This figure includes OPE costs.

*Not all hours captured.
Region Volunteer Program

The Region Volunteer Program involves people from local communities in a wide variety of volunteer projects. This past year projects included constructing bird boxes with kids; assisting at fishing events and youth hunts; building wildlife viewing platforms and trails; replacing guzzlers for wildlife; removing invasive plants and planting native species; improving and maintaining equipment and facilities; assembling, placing and retrieving bear baits; assisting with deer census surveys; transporting and collecting biological samples; staffing hunter check stations; recycling steelhead or spawning salmon at hatcheries, and more.

In past years the program was organized by three members of volunteer staff (at 1.50 FTE). It has now been reduced to 1.00 FTE through an elimination of the 0.50 FTE Region Volunteer Coordinator position at the SWWD office.

In 2014 839 individuals learned more about ODFW projects and programs through volunteering. Region volunteers come from all walks of life, but include college students, retirees, scouts, Master Hunters and sporting club members. Some of these volunteers have been involved with our agency for many years and others participated in only one project for just a few hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife Management</th>
<th>Wildlife Diversity</th>
<th>Fisheries Management</th>
<th>Outreach and Education</th>
<th>Support Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Number of Region Volunteers: 839

Value of Volunteer Time for 2014: $27.69 X 14,439 = $399,816.00

The statistics shown for the Region Volunteer Program include most hours from ODFW’s Northwest and High Desert Regions. The donated hours in most of the Southwest and Northeast Regions are not included.

Volunteers are equal to a Fish and Wildlife Technician, Step 4, at $27.69 per hour. This figure includes OPE costs.
Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP)

STEP seeks to achieve the recovery and sustainability of Oregon’s native salmon and trout through education and volunteer involvement with ODFW fish management efforts. The program has one full-time coordinator and one half-time administrative assistant (1.50 FTE). It is implemented in the field by eleven STEP biologists located around the state (nine at 1.00 FTE and two at .50 FTE = 10 FTE).

Volunteers work with STEP and other ODFW biologists to:
- Inventory and monitor fish populations and their habitats
- Restore and protect stream and riparian habitat
- Collect broodstock for hatchery programs and produce fish to supplement natural production or provide fisheries
- Inform and educate the public about Oregon’s fish resources

The 2014 STEP Annual Progress Report will be available at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/STEP/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Volunteer</th>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
<th>Hours Donated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>3,768</td>
<td>34,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>5,519</td>
<td>79,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,287</td>
<td>113,891</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Volunteers: 9,287

Value of Volunteer Time for 2014: $27.69 \times 133,891 \text{ hours} = $3,153,642

Volunteers are equal to a Fish and Wildlife Technician, Step 4, at $27.69 per hour. These figures include OPE costs.
Aquatic and Angler Education Program

The Aquatic and Angler Education Program utilizes the valuable resources of volunteers to deliver Angler Education classes and events at locations throughout Oregon. The program has one full-time coordinator and one part-time administrative assistant (1.50 FTE).

The program introduces beginning anglers to fishing in a safe, fun and responsible manner. Volunteer instructors conduct courses that cover basic angling skills, aquatic resources, angler ethics, responsibilities and water safety. The program also conducts nearly 100 fishing events each year through Free Fishing Weekend and the Youth Angling Enhancement Program. Agency staff, instructors and other volunteers are on hand with the gear, bait and knowledge needed to ensure that beginning anglers have a positive experience at these events.

Classes and events are conducted throughout Oregon in conjunction with a variety of groups including schools, boys and girls clubs, 4-H, scout troops, campfire groups, park and recreation departments, senior centers, the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club, Multnomah Anglers & Hunters, and many others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Volunteer</th>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
<th>Hours Donated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Instructor</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>4,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>3,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>8,857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Volunteers: 1,091
Number of Instructor Volunteer Hours: 4,996 at a rate of $35.42 = $176,958.32
Number of Volunteer Hours: 3,861 at a rate of $27.69 = $106,911.09
Value of Volunteer Time for 2014: $283,869.41

Value of Volunteer Time for Instructor Volunteers is equal to a NRS2, Step 4, at $35.42 per hour. Volunteers are equal to a Fish and Wildlife Technician, Step 4, at $27.69 per hour. These figures include OPE costs.
Hunter Education Program

The Hunter Education Program utilizes the valuable resources of volunteers to deliver mandatory hunter education to Oregon’s youth. The program has one full-time coordinator and one and a half administrative assistants (2.50 FTE).

The program’s primary function is the instruction of firearm and hunting safety; however, the program is about more than safety. The program produces responsible, knowledgeable, and involved young hunters who understand the importance of complying with hunting laws and behaving ethically.

Classes and events are conducted throughout Oregon in conjunction with a variety of groups including schools, boys and girls clubs, 4-H, scout troops, campfire groups, park and recreation departments, non-profit shooting ranges, the Oregon Hunters Association, the National Turkey Federation, and many others.

Number of Volunteers: 627
Number of Volunteer Hours: 29,075
Value of Volunteer Time for 2014: $35.42/hr X 29,075 hours = $1,029,836

Value of Volunteer Time for Instructor Volunteers is equal to a NRS2, Step 4, at $35.42 per hour (this includes OPE costs).
Outdoor Skills Education Program

The Outdoor Skills Education Program offers recreational training to people of all ages through specialized outdoor workshops. Specially trained volunteers introduce participants to a wide variety of activities and offer training in specific skills. Without these important volunteers committing their valuable time and resources to our program we would have a limited ability to reach out and offer the depth of programming that we now have.

Workshops are often co-sponsored by: state parks, hatcheries, gun clubs, wildlife areas, private game preserves, hunting and fishing organizations and clubs. The program has one full-time coordinator and one part-time assistant (1.50 FTE).

The program offers: family-friendly workshops open to everyone; Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshops for women seeking new or enhanced outdoor skills, and adult workshops for those 18 years of age and older.

The goals of the Outdoor Skills Education Program are to offer opportunities:

- to discover new outdoor skills and develop existing skills,
- to experience hands-on learning from friendly, competent instructors,
- to explore new areas of Oregon and find exciting recreational opportunities,
- to understand the role of hunters and anglers in conservation efforts,
- to meet new people with similar interests in the great outdoors.

Number of Volunteers: 156 (4 Certified, 152 Non Certified)
Number of Certified Volunteer Hours: 54 at a rate of $35.42 = $1,912.68
Number of Non Certified Volunteer Hours: 1,637 at a rate of $27.69 = $45,328.53
Value of Volunteer Time for 2014: $47,241.21

Value of Volunteer Time for Instructor Volunteers is equal to a NRS2, Step 4, at $35.42 per hour. Non Certified Volunteers are equal to a Fish and Wildlife Technician, Step 4, at $27.69 per hour. These figures include OPE costs.