



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

2016 Volunteer Program Annual Report

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.



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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 2016 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.

ODFW Statewide Volunteer Programs	Number of Volunteers	Volunteer Hours Contributed	Dollar Value of Volunteer Time
Volunteer Host Program	120	40,676	\$1,126,318
Region Volunteer Program	798	15,706*	\$434,899
Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP)	5,020	81,655	\$2,261,027
Aquatic and Angler Education Program	966	8,884	\$275,781
Hunter Education Program	527	31,112	\$1,101,987
Outdoor Skills Education Program	49	910	\$25,198
TOTAL	7,480	178,943	\$5,225,210
*Not all hours captured			



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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 and Region Program are 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. Hosts come from all parts of the US to volunteer their time and expertise.



Wildlife Areas Hatcheries Regional Offices	Wildlife Management	Wildlife Diversity	Fisheries Management	Outreach and Education	Support Services
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Number of Volunteer Hosts: 120

Value of Volunteer Time for 2016: \$27.69 X 40,676 = \$1,126,318

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



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Region Volunteer Program

The Region Volunteer Program involves people from local communities in a wide variety of volunteer projects. During 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; 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. It has now been reduced to a part time position (0.5 FTE) that also oversees the host program.

This year 798 individuals learned more about ODFW projects and programs through volunteering. Region volunteers come from all walks of life and 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 may have participated in only one project for just a few hours.



Wildlife Management	Wildlife Diversity	Fisheries Management	Outreach and Education	Support Service
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Number of Region Volunteers: 798

Value of Volunteer Time for 2016: \$27.69 X 15,706 = \$434,899 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.



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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 2016 STEP Annual Progress Report will be available at:
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/STEP/>



Type of Volunteer	Number of Volunteers	Hours Donated
Youth	1,062	11,421
Adult	3,958	70,234
Total	5,020	81,655

Number of Volunteers: 5,020

Value of Volunteer Time for 2016: \$27.69 x 81,655 hours = \$2,261,027

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



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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 Family Fishing Events. 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.

Type of Volunteer	Number of Volunteers	Hours Donated
Volunteer Instructor	427	3,853
Volunteer	539	5,031
Total	966	8,884



Number of Volunteers:

Number of Instructor Volunteer Hours: 3,853 at a rate of \$35.42 = \$136,473

Number of Volunteer Hours: 5,031 at a rate of \$27.69 = \$139,308

Value of Volunteer Time for 2016: \$275,781

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.



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Hunter Education Program

The Hunter Education Program utilizes the valuable resources of volunteers to deliver mandatory hunter education that is required by all of 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: 527

Number of Volunteer Hours: 31,112 hrs

Value of Volunteer Time for 2016: \$35.42/hr X 31,112 hours = \$1,101,987

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



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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 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: 49

Number of Non Certified Volunteer Hours: 910 at a rate of \$27.69 = \$25,198

Non Certified Volunteers are equal to a Fish and Wildlife Technician, Step 4, at \$27.69 per hour. These figures include OPE costs.