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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### FISH CULTURE

- **3.8 million** Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead and trout were reared, 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.
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.