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2 **635-009-0090**

3 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Purpose**

4 These Rules guide the operation and project selection of the Salmon Trout Enhancement
5 Program (STEP) as authorized under the provisions of ORS 496.435 and 496.440, et seq.
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7 **635-009-0095**

8 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Definitions**

9 **(Need to still enter this information)**

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11 **635-009-XXXX**

12 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee; membership**

13 (1) Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (STAC) consists of nine members
14 appointed by the Governor through the Executive Appointments Administration application process.

15 (a) All citizens are welcome and encouraged to serve.

16 (b) Consideration should be given to the following:

17 (A) Ensuring that STAC's membership reflects the demographic and geographic diversity
18 of Oregon;

19 (B) Members with experience working with volunteers, community service organizations,
20 or involvement in natural resource or angling education; and

21 (C) Including those engaging youth, underserved communities and diverse audiences,
22 such as communities of color, tribes, and low-income communities.

23 (c) Members may serve up to two consecutive four-year terms as appointed by the Governor.

24 (d) Members will:

25 (A) Be an Oregon resident.

26 (B) Have knowledge of (or willingness to learn about) Salmon and Trout Enhancement
27 Program (STEP) activities, work conducted by STEP biologists, volunteers, and partner
28 organizations.

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30 (C) Be in good standing with the ODFW Statewide Volunteer Program.

31 (D) Complete required trainings and adhere to the ODFW Volunteer Code of Conduct.

32 (E) Ability to represent the regional and statewide interests of the program and
33 volunteers.

34 (F) Willing to investigate topics of importance to STEP and develop recommendations.

35 (e) Members of the advisory committee will represent the following regions:

36 (A) North Coast

37 (B) Mid-Coast

38 (C) South Willamette Valley

39 (D) North Willamette Valley

40 (E) Coos-Coquille-Tenmile

41 (F) Umpqua

42 (G) South Coast

43 (H) Upper Rogue

44 (I) Eastern Oregon

45 (f) If a vacant position is not filled with a qualified candidate, a member representing the public-at-
46 large can be appointed.

47 (2) STAC will select officers and may form sub-committees as necessary to carry out business of the
48 Committee.

1 (3) Members of STAC may not receive compensation from ODFW for service as members, except as
2 provided by ORS Chapter 292. Members may be reimbursed for actual and necessary travel and other
3 expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.
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5 **635-009-AAAA**

6 **Meetings**

7 (1) STAC meetings, including information-gathering sessions, are public meetings and must be
8 conducted as required by ORS 192.610 through ORS 192.690.

9 (2) STAC will meet no less than twice each calendar year as necessary to carry out the business of the
10 Committee. Meeting locations and dates will be selected in coordination with the STEP Coordinator in
11 consideration of available funding and staffing.
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14 **635-009-0100**

15 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Policy and Goals**

16 (1) It is the policy of the Fish and Wildlife Commission, in carrying out the provisions of ORS
17 496.435 and 496.440, et seq., that a Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program shall be conducted
18 to benefit all users of the salmon and trout resources of this state.

19 (2) STEP goals are:

- 20 (a) Provide the opportunity for citizen volunteer participation in achieving the
21 Department's management objectives;
- 22 (b) Rehabilitate and enhance natural habitat of salmon and trout;
- 23 (c) Rehabilitate and enhance populations of salmon and trout;
- 24 (d) Support and promote an education program to increase the public's understanding of
25 Oregon's aquatic resources and the environment.
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27 **635-009-0105**

28 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Community Advisors**

29 As identified in ORS 496.445 the Department, as staffing allows, will assist citizen volunteers
30 with implementation of STEP and:

- 31 1) Act as community advisors to cooperatively develop projects.
- 32 2) Review and approve projects to ensure compliance with applicable rules, plans, and
33 policies.
- 34 3) Provide technical assistance, education, and training to citizens responsible for
35 implementation of projects.
- 36 4) Evaluate enhancement projects with the citizens responsible for project implementation.
- 37 5) Coordinate the implementation of projects with the activities of the Department and other
38 agencies.
- 39 6) Provide educational and informational materials to promote public awareness and
40 involvement in the salmon and trout enhancement program.
- 41 7) Supervise the activities of citizens undertaking projects.
- 42 8) Coordinate grant funding to citizens for the implementation of approved projects from
43 such moneys as may be available.
- 44 9) Provide educational and informational materials, and events to increase the public's
45 understanding of Oregon's aquatic resources and the environment.
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47 **635-009-BBBB**

1 **Program volunteers**

2 Citizens and groups assisting with implementation of STEP projects are subject to the
3 Departments policies governing volunteers.

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5 **635-009-CCCC**

6 **Propagation of fish through STEP**

- 7 (1) The use of hatchery programs through STEP is important to provide citizen volunteer
8 participation (ORS 496.440) and provide optimum fishery (ORS 506.109) and conservation
9 benefits.
- 10 (2) All STEP hatchery related projects and associated propagation of fish must comply with the
11 Department’s Hatchery Management Policy 635-007-0542 through 635-007-0548 and
12 contribute toward the sustainability of naturally produced native fish populations through the
13 responsible use of hatcheries and hatchery-produced fish (635-007-0543(2)).
- 14 (3) All STEP propagation projects must be implemented consistent with:
- 15 a. A conservation plan 635-007-0502(4) and 0505 and used responsibly to help achieve the
16 goals of the Native Fish Conservation Policy 635-007-0504(4). For locations without a
17 conservation plan STEP hatchery and propagation projects must meet the interim criteria
18 outlined in 635-007-0507 through 635-007-0509.
 - 19 b. The applicable hatchery program management plan for that stock and location, as
20 identified 635-007-0545.
 - 21 c. The Fish Health Management Policy outlined in 635-007-0965 through 635-007-0995.
 - 22 d. The Climate and Ocean Change Policy outlined in 635-900-0001 through 635-900-0020
- 23 (4) ODFW will provide training as required in OAR 635-007-0506 and 635-007-0548 to any
24 citizen or group of citizens proposing or implementing a STEP propagation project.
- 25 (5) For STEP propagation projects, all eggs, fish, and any portions thereof continue to be the
26 property of the State of Oregon.
- 27 a. It is unlawful to transport, hold, handle, possess, or release eggs or fish except as
28 specifically authorized by department or when applicable a Fish Transport Permit OAR
29 635-007-0600.
 - 30 b. All fish returning to a STEP propagation project must be handled and disposed of in
31 accordance with 635-007-0545(14).
- 32 (6) In the event of unforeseen shortages of eggs or fish, changes in facility availability or status,
33 or need for management adjustments the department may implement any revisions necessary.
- 34 (7) Approval of a project that includes the use of water will be considered “certified” as
35 identified in ORS 537.142.

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37 **635-009-DDDD**

38 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Project Application**

- 39 (1) Any citizen or group of citizens may propose a project for implementation under STEP.
40 Projects may include but are not limited to:
- 41 a. Improvements to aquatic habitats to provide resilience for expected future
42 conditions,
 - 43 b. Stocking or acclimation of department sponsored fish releases

- 1 c. Monitoring or research of fish populations, habitats, and water conditions over
- 2 time.
- 3 d. Education and outreach to inform the public about salmon, trout and their habitats
- 4 and opportunities to get involved through STEP,
- 5 (i) Including educational classroom incubators in which no more than 500 eggs may
- 6 be incubated as an educational tool. and all release locations must be approved by the
- 7 Department.
- 8 e. Propagation projects which may include but not limited to: harvest hatchery,
- 9 conservation hatchery, egg incubation, and rearing, acclimation, and release of fish.
- 10 (2) Projects, including those involving the propagation of fish, which are initiated and
- 11 administered by Department do not need to apply under this section unless the Department
- 12 is seeking certification for the water right as identified in ORS 537.142 to support a project
- 13 that will be implemented with the assistance of volunteers.
- 14 (3) Following consultation with STEP Biologist, a proposed projects shall be submitted in
- 15 writing on forms provided by the Department.
- 16 (4) The Department may require any additional information it deems necessary in order to
- 17 evaluate the project proposal.

19 **635-009-0115**

20 **Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program Project Approval**

- 21 (1) All projects, prior to commencing, must be approved in writing by the Department.
- 22 (2) Approval will be based on the departments determination that the project complies with
- 23 department policies, fish management goals and objectives including as applicable the
- 24 criteria identified in 635-009-EEEE.
- 25 (3) Approval of projects shall be for a time period determined by the Department based on the
- 26 type of project.
- 27 (4) Project proposals will be evaluated by the department prior to approval to determine that:
 - 28 (a) The proposal is consistent with relevant conservation plans developed under the
 - 29 Native Fish Conservation Policy (635-007-0502 through 635-007-0510)
 - 30 (b) The proposal is based on sound biological principles and uses appropriate methods to
 - 31 accomplish the project objectives;
 - 32 (c) Any new proposal to release or rear more than 100,000 fish has been reviewed and
 - 33 approved by the Commission.
 - 34 (d) The potential impact on all fish species, the environment, and contribution to the
 - 35 resource are acceptable.
 - 36 (e) All required federal, state and local permits have been obtained.
 - 37 (f) Any required fish screen, avian exclosure, disease control mechanisms, and isolation
 - 38 facilities are in place and operating.
 - 39 (g) The fish and egg production meets criteria shown in previously approved programs
 - 40 for release size, time, and mark rate, and disease control regulations will be met.
 - 41 (h) The applicant has sufficient resources available to ensure continued successful
 - 42 operations of the project and, when applicable, adequate husbandry of fish.
- 43 (5) The department may refuse to issue if:
 - 44 (a) The propagation of the fish specified in the application will be the first introduction of
 - 45 that species into the watershed in which the proposed facility is located.

- 1 (b) The Department finds the project or operation, as proposed by the applicant, is not
2 consistent with relevant conservation plans developed under the Native Fish
3 Conservation Policy.
- 4 (c) The Department finds the project or operation, as proposed by the applicant, would
5 tend to be harmful to existing fish populations in or below the project site or proposed
6 propagation facility.
- 7 (d) The Department finds the applicant violated any terms of any license, permit or
8 operational plan issued by the Department.
- 9 (e) The Department finds the applicant has failed to comply with any relevant statute,
10 rule or reporting requirements.
- 11 (f) The applicant has failed to pay any sums it owes to the Department, or which are
12 owed to the Department under any license or permit it holds or the benefits of which
13 it enjoys.
- 14 (6) The Department may prescribe such terms and conditions for project approval as it may
15 deem necessary for protection of naturally produced species (or stocks) or to achieve
16 compliance with Oregon laws or rules.
- 17 (7) After review of these proposals, the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee will provide
18 recommendations to the Department.
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21 **635-009-0120**

22 **Revocation of Salmon and Trout Enhancement Propagation Project**

- 23 (1) The Department may revoke or amend its approval of a STEP project or STEP
24 propagation project if it determines:
- 25 (a) The project is no longer consistent with any provision of approval, including those
26 for identified in 635-009-0115 or 635-009-EEEE.
- 27 (b) There has been a violation of any term or condition imposed on the project by the
28 Department, including failure to cooperate or participate with the Department in
29 good faith or a professional manner as described in the Departments volunteer code
30 of conduct.
- 31 (c) There are not sufficient funds for the Department's continued involvement in the
32 project.
- 33 (2) Revocation of the approval for a project is in addition to and not in lieu of other penalties
34 provided by law.
- 35 (3) Prior to revocation the Department may temporarily curtail or amend any aspect of the
36 project to ensure compliance with section (1).
- 37 (a) The Department will advise the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee of the proposed
38 revocation.
- 39 (b) The Salmon Trout Advisory Committee may review and make a recommendation to
40 the Department as outlined in 635-009-0115(7).
- 41 (c) The Department will consider the Salmon Trout Advisory Committee
42 recommendations before final actions.
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