Earth Day Is Personal

Join Us April 12 to Celebrate and Take Action

While the Tualatin River welcomes an increasing number of recreationists, our watershed faces new and enduring challenges. Emerging contaminants, habitat loss, and climate change are putting pressure on this vital watershed, and on the communities, wildlife, and ecosystems that depend on it. That's why this Earth Day, we're celebrating the river and watershed we all love, while calling on our community to take action and protect it.

Join us on Saturday, April 12 at the TRK office for a host of activities to protect, restore, and enjoy our watershed.

11675 SW Hazelbrook Road in Tualatin

Earth Day Activities

Habitat Restoration Projects • 10:30 AM–12:30 PM

Guided Birmann and Kayak River Trips • 10:30 AM & 12:00 PM
This space on boats will be first-come, first-served via a sign up list beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the TRK booth. Note that there is a chance we'll need to cancel this activity if the river remains unusually high.

Ongoing Activities: Bird and Bat House Building, Annual Boat Sale, Partner Educational Booths

Boat Sale: We'll have nearly 40 kayaks (single and double), canoes, and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) for sale, all at great prices. Proceeds go directly to supporting Tualatin Riverkeepers' work to protect and restore the watershed.

Why It Matters

This year, we're shining a spotlight on PFAS and 6PPD-quinone—toxic, long-lasting chemicals found in everyday products that pollute watersheds like the Tualatin. These pollutants pose a serious threat to clean water, fish and wildlife, and the health of our communities.

That's why Tualatin Riverkeepers is committed to making bold progress in 2025 by focusing on:

🌲 **Conservation** 🌲
Protecting critical habitats and promoting sustainable land-use practices.

🎓 **Education** 🎓
Growing programs that connect people to the river and inspire stewardship.

🤝 **Community Engagement** 🤝
Partnering with frontline communities impacted by pollution and climate change.

It Takes All of Us

We're deeply grateful to our community partners who will be joining us at the Earth Day Fair and who strengthen this work every day:

- Trout Unlimited
- Xerces Society
- Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
- Clean Water Services

We also want to thank our generous business sponsors, whose support will help make this event—and our ongoing work—possible:

NORTHWEST

BREW DR. KOMBUCHA

How You Can Help

Protecting clean water and a healthy Tualatin River watershed takes all of us. One of the most impactful ways you can support this work is by becoming a member or donating to fuel our mission throughout the year.

Become a Member | **Make a Donation**

Let's come together this Earth Day—not just to celebrate the beauty of the river, but to stand up for its future. We can't wait to see you there.

Bills of Interest in the Oregon Legislature

Tualatin Riverkeepers has been active during this long session in the Oregon Legislature, working with partners to advocate for bills that advance our work to protect, restore, and enjoy the Tualatin River watershed. We've written a number of letters advocating for or opposing bills primarily related to water quality. Our Executive Director, Glenn Fee, joined dozens of trails advocates for a day-long event at Capitol in early March, pressing lawmakers to support recreational immunity, among other recreation bills. At the late March legislative deadline, 3,444 of the 3,393 bills in Oregon's 2025 legislative session died, meaning these bills won't come to the floor of either chamber for a vote. For the bills that are still alive, they could either come to the floor for a vote, or – as is likely with the *Landowner Liking with Beavers* bill – they could be included in the Governor's budget.

HB 3143 – Landowner Liking with Beavers

Our position: Support

Description: In 2023, with support from Tualatin Riverkeepers and dozens of statewide partners, the legislature passed HB 3464, removing the predatory animal status of beavers and shifted management on private lands from the Department of Agriculture to ODFW. This opened an opportunity to provide an alternative to beaver extermination. If it passes, HB 3143 will *establish The Landowners Liking with Beaver Grant Program Fund* within Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, where blocks grants of up to $10,000 will be awarded through the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund for projects that support beaver coexistence strategies for private landowners.

Status: The bill passed out of Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water on February 13 and has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. We anticipate the need in the coming weeks for supporters to contact elected officials to help ensure that this work is funded in the budget. We'll reach out via an Action Alert and on social media when this time comes.

HB 2892 – Addresses funding gap in Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Our position: Support

Description: This bill proposes to adjust state Waterway Access Permits and boating fees in order to address a funding gap in the state's existing Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. As one of a few bills intended to address invasive species, HB 2982 would utilize funds through grants and agreements to prevent and control aquatic invasive species. Additional information on invasive species of concern is available from our friends at the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

Status: The bill has moved to the Joint Committee on Ways & Means for evaluation with other budget priorities to determine what ultimately passes the full legislative process by the end of June.

HB 3362 – Tire Pollution Tax

Our position: Support

Description: HB 3362 proposes to include a 3% fee on the purchase of new tires in Oregon, with proceeds supporting wildlife crossings, rail projects, and 6PPD-reduction efforts. Tualatin Riverkeepers has been working with a number of regional partners and Waterkeeper groups on 6PPD, a tire additive that when exposed to air becomes 6PPD-Quinone, which is lethal to many salmonids. This bill would provide approximately $5 million annually for stormwater projects that prevent 6PPDQ from reaching waterways.

Status: Opposition to the bill has been significant, driven primarily by the prospects of a new tax. While the bill still faces challenges, it has been included in the Wildlife Transportation Framework announced on April 3rd by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Transportation. Regardless of its fate, we're encouraged that this bill helps to elevate awareness of the risk that 6PPD and other emerging contaminants in the Tualatin River watershed and across the state.

HB 3501 – Prohibits impacts on wildlife and water quality on water rights transfers

Our position: Oppose

Description: HB 3501 would prohibit Oregon from considering the effects on fish, wildlife, and water quality when evaluating applications to change existing water rights. In essence, the agency charged with managing our state's waters would be prohibited from considering whether transfers would impair the public interest, including impacts on fish and wildlife, water quality, public health, and recreation. This bill runs the opposition to SB 427 and SB 1153, each of which would close the loophole in water rights transfers and require the state to consider the public interest. TRK supports each of these bills.

Status: The bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, where it faced significant written opposition leading up to a March hearing. A work session on the bill is scheduled in the committee on April 7.

SB 91 and HB 3512 – Prohibits manufacture and use of toxic PFAS chemicals

Our position: Support

Description: These two bills introduced in the respective legislative chambers address the dangerous impacts of PFAS. HB 3512 would ban PFAS in most products in 2026, with a 2028 deadline to phase out items with longer production timelines. The bill was introduced along with SB 91, which protects firefighters by ending the use of a fire fighting foam that contains PFAS. The Oregon Environmental Council, which championed each of the bills, has a summary of the work to ban these harmful forever chemicals.

Status: HB 3512 did not advance out of committee, but TRK will continue to work with partners to advance legislation that addresses the impacts of PFAS.

SB 179 – Recreational Immunity

Our position: Support

Description: Recreational Immunity provides basic protections to public and private landowners that open their lands to the public for recreation free of charge. SB 179 removes the sunset on the bill passed in 2024, ensuring that Oregon trails stay open!

Status: SB 179 unanimously passed in the Senate and it is awaiting a hearing in the House Committee on Judiciary.

SB 634 – Dams and Hydropower

Our position: Oppose

Description: Current law reasonably allows for hydroelectric dams to count toward the state's renewable energy portfolio if they have undergone post-1995 efficiency upgrades or if they are certified as low impact, which prevents harmful, old hydropower projects from being counted as renewable. SB 634 would allow all hydroelectric dams, no matter how ecologically or socially harmful, to count toward the state's renewable portfolio.

Status: Thanks to the quick opposition led by Columbia Riverkeeper and other partners, this harmful bill did not advance.

SB 427 – Adopt Review Standards for Water Right Transfers

Our position: Support

Description: Senate Bill 427, which has been championed by the Oregon Water Partnership, would require Oregon to adopt standards of review to protect the public interest and the environment in water right transfers, in line with other states across the west. The bill stands in marked opposition to HB 3501, which would prohibit the state from considering public interest values when considering transfers.

Status: SB 427 passed out of committee and is scheduled for a work session on April 8th.

WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE