

# Introducing Trout-Safe Certification

Since 1997, Oregon-based nonprofit Salmon-Safe has successfully defined and promoted climate resilient land management practices that protect water quality and promote habitat conservation across the West Coast. Now Salmon-Safe is joining with Idaho-based partners Friends of the Teton River, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Idaho and Henry's Fork Foundation to introduce this same collaborative approach with Trout-Safe certification for environmentally innovative growers. For most farms in the Inland Northwest, there is no fee for Trout-Safe participation.

## What does it mean to be Trout-Safe certified?

Based on Salmon-Safe's peer reviewed standards that have been applied at hundreds of farms over two decades, Trout-Safe certification recognizes farms for going "above and beyond" in protecting water quality and wildlife habitat. Trout-Safe certification is based on a "whole farm" assessment including contiguous farmed and non-farmed areas. Please see back side for standard categories.



## What's the next step in seeking Trout-Safe certification?

Trout-Safe certification is based on an on-the-ground farm assessment with one of our independent assessors. If you are currently certified through one of our partners like GLOBALG.A.P., you may be able to achieve Trout-Safe certification through an efficient overlay assessment by your existing certifier that delivers multiple labels in a single inspection visit. Either way, we'll be happy to work with you to schedule an assessment. And again, there is no cost for Trout-Safe participation for most qualified farms and ranches.

## Contact us for more information

Brian Muegge, Salmon-Safe/Trout Safe, [brian.muegge@salmonsafesafe.org](mailto:brian.muegge@salmonsafesafe.org)  
Daniel Wilcox, Henry's Fork Foundation, [daniel@henrysfork.org](mailto:daniel@henrysfork.org)

[www.troutsafe.org](http://www.troutsafe.org)



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# Trout-Safe Standards Include 7 Primary Categories:

## **1. In-Stream Habitat Protection and Restoration**

For farms with stream habitat, standards focus on addressing the condition of stream channels including streambeds and banks, conserving intact in-stream habitats and restoring stream habitat where feasible.

## **2. Riparian Vegetation and Wetland Protection and Restoration**

Farms with stream habitat are assessed with standards focusing on measures taken to conserve riparian areas, including stream banks and wetlands. These areas should be in good condition to provide shade, stream bank stability, filtration of sediment, and other key functions. Riparian setbacks can range between 50-100 feet, depending on site conditions, with a minimum width of 35 feet.

## **3. Water Use Management**

Water management standards focus on actions to minimize impacts of water withdrawals on fish and wildlife. These include water conservation practices through irrigation efficiency, timing of water diversions to limit impacts on fish, selection of drought tolerant crops for changing climate conditions, and seeking alternative water sources for irrigation to minimize reductions to in-stream flows.

## **4. Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control**

Erosion management standards focus on protection of soil and erosion prevention through vegetative cover, mulch or other methods to avoid sediment transport to downstream waterways. In addition to reduced tillage or no-till practices to build soil health and retention, standards address utilization of filter strips, water quality treatment ponds, swales, or other measures to protect waterways from high erosion hazard areas such as roads, steep slopes, dry gullies, and animal watering and feeding locations.

## **5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Water Quality Protection**

Standards address implementation of rigorous integrated pest management approaches to minimize the possibility of downstream impacts from the use of agricultural pesticides as well as reduction strategies that include mechanical and biologically-based methods for reducing the amount of chemical control required. The standards include a “high hazard” list of restricted pesticides that pose excessive risk to salmon and trout ecosystems.

## **6. Animal Management**

Animal management standards focus on management of livestock to avoid excessive soil compaction, erosion, and loss of vegetation cover while enhancing pasture condition. Standards address animal waste management to avoid contamination of streams and water bodies through establishment of watering facilities for livestock, implementation of a manure management system, and manure cover.

## **7. Landscape Level Biological Diversity Enhancement**

Standards focus on ensuring that farming practices support and enhance biodiversity throughout the farm. Standards include biodiversity in cultivated areas of the farm to maintain soil health, habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife within fields and field margins as well as restoration of non-farmed areas, including forests, wetlands, fence rows or other areas that are not actively farmed to promote refuges for biodiversity.

**Please see [troutsafe.org](https://troutsafe.org) to download the Salmon-Safe farm standards for detailed certification requirements.**