

Hampton Susan

Subject: FW: SB1513 Instream Leasing

From: ljmartin@cliffonline.com [mailto:ljmartin@cliffonline.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 5:54 PM
To: Patrino Beth
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I am a farmer in the Rogue basin of Southwestern Oregon. I have been involved in a split season in stream lease with the former Oregon Water Trust, now The Freshwater Trust, since the middle 1990's. We helped pioneer the split season concept and are still involved. We use the winter rains for our first cutting and then pull our irrigation equipment, leasing our 1902 water right to the Trust with the understanding that our water remain in Evans Creek through the critical late summer season. I feel this program has been of great help to us and to our effort to help restore a stream that I've had the pleasure of living beside for 72 years. Our second cutting for years has been a wash, profit wise. As costs of fuel, labor, irrigation equipment and fertilizer have risen, profits have gone to a point of being non existent. The program that the water trust had developed has allowed us to extract some of the value of our long held water rights with out the wasting of fuel, energy, fertilizer and time.

Beginning In 2005 we assisted the water trust and the ODF in developing the Farms to Forest Program. The first planting of timber under the program was done here on the J Diamond L ranch. Marginal farm land was taken out of hay production, water rights leased to the water trust for in stream use for 29 years, the land replanted to timber under the Oregon Forest Trust.

Our experience with the Freshwater Trust has been very good, their programs very beneficial and well developed to the farmers needs. I urge you to seriously consider their SB1513. Do contact me if I can be of any value to you in any way.

Best Regards, Lawrence J. Martin 541-582-3620 P.O. Box 870 Rogue River, OR. 97537