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From: ljmartin@cliffonline.com [mailto:ljmartin@cliffonline.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 12:18 PM

To: dwight.w.french@state.or.us

Subject: Letter for Monday

Dear Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I desire to lend my support for the passage of Senate Bill 199.

The concept of the in stream, split season lease was developed here on our property in the Evans Valley of southern Oregon. Steve Parrett of the former Oregon Water Trust, now Freshwater Trust, worked out the details and we signed on for a trial one year period in 2001.

We've found that the spring rains supplemented with minimal irrigation in the early summer provides adequate moisture for our first cutting of hay. We usually start light irrigations in May, cut in late June to early July at which time we pull the pump and turn the water to the 'in stream lease'. The fields then get pastured through the remainder of the irrigating season.

We no longer go for a second cutting which provides many benefits to us the land owner, to the creek and to the community. As the land owner I have cut my irrigation expenses by seventy percent; (labor, fuel and r&m on the system) Fertilizer expenses have decreased by fifty percent; tractor expenses have decreased because it now sits in the barn. We have seen a visual improvement in the stream flow of Evans Creek which has improved fish habitat and pleased the community.

In other work with the 'water trust' we've pioneered the "Farms to Forest" program which took marginal land out of hay production, returning the water to creek via a 29 year in stream lease, and with a state forestry program planted 8/10 thousand trees.

In short, I am of the opinion that the more options you provide for the various 'water management' organizations to draw from the better the fit to the individual projects they implement.

The in stream split season lease concept works well, it's simple to implement for the agencies, it's simple for the landowner to understand, and it's simple to monitor.

I urge you to make provisions to keep it available.

Respectfully,

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