



The Freshwater Trust®

Changing the course of conservation.

The Freshwater Trust is a 501(c)(3) Oregon-based not-for-profit organization that actively works to preserve and restore our freshwater ecosystems.

Support Senate Bill 199-A: Sunset Extension on Split Season Leasing

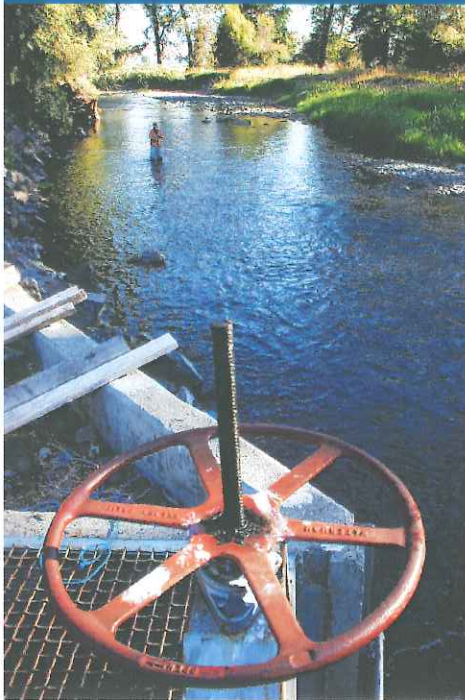
Split season leasing creates win-win opportunities for farmers, ranchers and fish and has broad stakeholder support in both the conservation and agricultural communities.

SB 199-A passed the Senate 28-0.

What SB 199-A Does:

- 1) Extends the existing sunset on the 12-year-old Split Season Leasing program by 10 years.
- 2) Puts longstanding OWRD rules into statute to ensure:
 - No injury to other water users;
 - Notice is provided to other water users before leases commence;
 - OWRD retains the ability to modify or cancel a lease if injury is alleged or found;
 - Imposes a five-year limit on individual leases, with no limit on renewals.

Extending the sunset on Split Season Leasing is vital to landowners so they can make long-term planning decisions.



Split Season Instream Leasing makes good ecological, agricultural and economic sense

Ecological: In a typical eastern Oregon stream, rivers and fish need water most in the late summer months when flows are lowest.

Agricultural: One acre foot of water applied before July when cool season plants go dormant grows 2,400 pounds of hay; the same acre foot of water applied in the months after July grows only 400 pounds of hay.

Economic: Crop value of one acre foot of water applied before July: \$58 per acre foot. Crop value of one acre foot applied after July: \$10 per acre foot. Value of one acre foot of water leased instream after July nets between \$35 and \$150 per acre foot.

