

April 4, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB 3132

Chair Witt, and Committee members of the House Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 3132.

As an Eastern Oregon Rancher this is a common sense, forward moving, actionable effort with definite positive results. Although this Bill will not benefit my particular setting, it will set the stage for possibly broader implementation areas. I have employed these "Beaver Dam Analogs", "Conservation Weirs", "Plug and Pond" methods on a small scale with absolute remarkable results. The small, intermittent streams on my northern Malhuer Ranch had incised, cut bank geomorphology. Using the carcasses of previously cut, invasive western Juniper, we positioned them into the channel to capture the spring flow runoff, intentionally slowing the speed of the water flow. The multiple result(s) was nothing short of amazing. We achieved higher water infiltration, into the surrounding topsoil, raising the water level in the channel, and expanded the "green zone" of riparian vegetation, plus the length of time the vegetation stayed growing was extended. Huge benefits for all species, including Sage Grouse, Mule Deer, aquatic species, plus the economic viability of Ranching. These practices along with the other enhancement tools are assisting the Private Landowner with longer season environmental vitality!

In closing, I fully endorse HB 3132 in this streamlining of government oversight, by actually getting positive methods employed, in a low cost, effective manner, while enlisting the technical assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and/or local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These dynamic and very effective methods truly are improving the landscape of Eastern Oregon in all perspectives, environmental, economic and sustaining the culture of rural Oregon communities!

Thank you for your consideration,

Curtis W. Martin

Juniper Mountain Ranch

