

Submitter: Tony Newbill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

Good Morning ! Thank you for your service to our state and country !

I wanted to forward you this from yesterday that I sent in regards to your Cloud Seeding Bill in hopes that it might help add incentives to rallying support for this effort , an effort that we need so desperately here in Central and south Central Oregon ! We are Dry .

My family has been here since before 1874 when they buried my 3 Great Grandpa in the Grizzly Cemetery . So the History on Rainfall and Snow Fall in the Cascades from the 1930's till 1990's according to ASCS annual reporting was 12-14 inch annual rainfall and 150-180 inch annual snow base in the Areas of the Cascades above the Crescent -Crane Prairie basins . Since the mid 1990's its been Half that !!

I don't know if you have been following the recent Lawsuit the Center for Biological Diversity has unleashed on us here but they now want 600 CFS winter flows released from Wickiup Reservoir during the winter . This will all but Keep the Reservoir drained at current Snow Fall Levels ! Madras is Toast for Irrigation water if this plays out , and our Irrigation water is Deschutes river flows and I believe that if this practice is allowed it will "BLEED" the water shed DRY and by Mid-summer the Deschutes River will be nothing more than a Trickle ! <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-launched-to-protect-oregon-spotted-frogs-in-upper-deschutes-river-2023-01-12/>

And this Report by the Oregon Water Resources Council tells us we NEED to try to Mitigate Climate Change with Idaho Power's Cloud Seeding Program , The longer we wait the lower the Aquifer GETS . And this is the condition happening up the Paulina Basin TOO !!

https://www.opb.org/pdf/OWRDMemo_DeschutesGroundwaterLevelDeclines_2021-09-01_FINAL_1657754829743.pdf

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/01/14/central-oregon-crook-county-extreme-drought-emergency/>

<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/07/19/deschutes-water-rights-access-well-drilling-groundwater-central-oregon/>

What about what Berkeley Laboratory is predicting a SNOWLESS Cascade Mountain Range, <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/11/03/snowpack-cascades-climate-change/>

USDA Water Specialist Ron Abramovich has begged for Oregon to do to help try and

improve salmon habitat ? https://magicvalley.com/opinion/columnists/reader-comment-cloud-seeding-can-aid-other-collaborative-efforts-to-restore-idaho-s-salmon-runs/article_8267aec5-ddc5-524a-b60b-66f3c8897430.html

California is Cloud Seeding to try and help increase Water flows to help the Delta Smelt so why are we not doing this here in the Cascades before we reach the predicted time frame that Berkeley Lab is warning us about ?

<https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/energy-sources/hydroelectric/cloud-seeding/frequently-asked-questions/>

<https://columbiainsight.org/idaho-is-going-all-in-on-cloud-seeding-heres-why/>

https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/northwest/leading-the-way-idaho-coaxes-more-snow-from-the-sky-using-cloud-seeding/article_c562942b-c719-579f-bf1c-960add8f292b.html

<https://www.countyofsb.org/2548/Cloud-Seeding-Precipitation-Enhancement#:~:text=Cloud%20seeding%20programs%20are%20conducted,means%20of%20enhancing%20water%20supplies.>

Texas uses cloud seeding to help irrigate fields for farmers, it's more common in the West, where states like Idaho, California, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming use it to help fill up their rivers and reservoirs. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/17/how-cloud-seeding-can-help-replenish-reservoirs-in-the-west.html>

We had Kala Golden with Idaho Water Resources Board come to the Farm Fair in Madras Oregon last week to advise Farmers on Idaho's efforts to use Cloud Seeding as a Mitigation Tool in fighting Climate Change drought effects .

Kala Said that 5 years is what's needed to see the results .

<https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/cloud-seeding-program/>

<http://jeffcoseed.com/farm-fair/>