

Submitter: Rob Galyen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB58

Water is the lifeblood of Jefferson County and a reliable water supply is vital to the Oregon economy and its growing population. It is crucial, therefore, for Oregon to secure the water resources necessary to sustain its growth and provide for the future. To help supplement the state's water supply, some areas should utilize periodic cloud seeding attempts to increase rainfall.

Per Idaho Power meteorologists, they monitor winter storms as they pass across the central Idaho mountains, looking for opportunities to increase the amount of snow that falls in drainages that feed the Snake River.

The goal of our cloud-seeding program is to provide additional water for Idaho Power's hydropower projects, which provide reliable, affordable, clean, energy for our customers. Increased snowpack also benefits irrigators, winter recreationists, river users, and fish and wildlife.

The original program began in 2003 to increase snow accumulation in the south and middle forks of the Payette River watershed. In 2008, Idaho Power expanded its cloud-seeding efforts by enhancing a program operated by a group of counties and other stakeholders in the upper Snake River system above Milner Dam.

Idaho Power operates remote-controlled, ground-based generators and aircraft to target the Payette, Boise and Wood river basins as well as the upper Snake River system.

Analyses conducted by Idaho Power since 2003 indicate the annual snowpack in the Payette River Basin increased an average of approximately 12%.

The typical cloud seeding season runs from Nov. 1 through April 30.

SB 58 is one of the essential steps needed in helping the long term viability of Oregon agriculture!