

Submitter: Ally Steinmetz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3135

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council based in Madras, Oregon. In watersheds we work in such as Trout Creek, 9-10 inches of precipitation a year compounded with extensive juniper cover means not much is really getting into the soil profile. Research has shown that it takes a rain event of more than a 1/2 inch to penetrate the canopy of juniper trees, leaving even less rainfall to reach the soil. On a landscape with 50% juniper cover, this essentially cuts our effective precipitation in half, making it very difficult for our native shrub and grass species to thrive, or even survive. This significantly impacts the wildlife that depend on that forage, not to mention our livestock producers. It has also been widely documented that healthy uplands are the driving force to healthy streams. It is critical that this bill passes so that our local organizations can receive the funding necessary to tackle the juniper problem on a landscape-scale.