



Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District

April 4, 2025

To: Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Vice Chair
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD)

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Committee Co-Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

RE: HB3135

House Bill 3135 directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to award grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state of Oregon to treat invasive western junipers. Continued funding for these projects is essential to the improvement of water quality, restoration of ecosystems, enhancement of ecological and wildlife biodiversity, and wildfire risk mitigation. DSWCD is thankful for the acknowledgement of this important work by the Legislature as exemplified in HB 3135.

In 2023, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2010 which directed DAS to provide grants related to the treatment of western junipers to 7 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This funding has provided our districts with the opportunity to partner with other local, state and federal agencies to coordinate on western juniper treatment efforts. To date, HB 2010 has helped our Soil and Water Conservation Districts treat over 16,326 acres of western juniper across the State of Oregon.

With the State's ongoing investment in western juniper treatment through HB 3135, DSWCD will be able to continue our efforts to restore water quality and ecological health across Oregon landscapes. We urge you to support the continued investment in western juniper treatment through HB 3135.

For more information on Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation Districts' juniper treatment projects done to date, please visit <https://www.deschuteswcd.org/restoring-balance-juniper-removal-project-at-rimrock-ranch/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Kilcullen".

Erin Kilcullen

Deschutes SWCD District Manager