



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Hello Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman and Owens, and Members of the committee,

For the Record I am Representative Bobby Levy from House District 58 and I am here to testify in support of HB 3142.

Water conservation has been and will continue to be a pressing issue here in Oregon. Especially in our counties most affected by droughts, like we saw this last summer. The Western Juniper tree has exploded in population within Oregon going from a population of 1.5 million in the 1930s to over 6.5 million today. The US Forest Service has estimated the tree density ranging from 9 to 35 trees per acre—at that rate Western Juniper is capable of using all available soil moisture in the area. This leads to harmful effects on native plants and the wildlife that rely on them.

It is imperative that we give the necessary resources to the counties combat the over population of the invasive western juniper. Our grandchildren and their child deserve the ability to explore and enjoy the beauties of Central Oregon with all of the wonderful native plants and water life. I ask you to vote yes on HB 3142 and help preserve Central Oregon in all its unique beauties.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58