



**SIERRA CLUB**  
OREGON CHAPTER

**Juniper Group**

February 16, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony in opposition to HB 3142

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Juniper Group of the Oregon Sierra Club appreciates this opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 3142. The Juniper Group is dedicated to preserving Central and Eastern Oregon's environment, natural resources, and quality of life. We have over 3,700 members and supporters, and function both independently and in concert with the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, which has over 74,000 members and supporters.

Unfortunately, the Juniper Group has significant concerns with this bill, and we **oppose HB 3142 in its present form**. Our concerns are as follows.

House Bill 3142 provides \$9,000,000 to Soil and Water Conservation Districts in seven counties without requiring ecological criteria or best management practices for its use other than the "removal of western juniper to minimize the negative impacts of western juniper on water resources and ecological health," which is to be determined by the grantees.

No process or standards are in place or required by this bill to ensure that juniper removal occurs in areas that will be prioritized for the best ecological benefit.

House Bill 3142 is flawed: there are no apparent standards of approval, no scientific or technical review prior to juniper removal, no resource agency oversight, no protection for old growth juniper, and no criteria or methodologies required to minimize unintended adverse effects, including but not limited to soil disturbances, erosion, weed proliferation, and impacts to rare or declining plant or animal species.

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We believe that spending almost \$10,000,000 of General Fund monies on a poorly conceived juniper removal program is not an effective approach to addressing Oregon's instream and out-of-stream needs.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony,

*Nancy Gilbert*

Nancy Gilbert, Water Issues Chair  
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