

## **Testimony in support of HB 3366 (4/8/23)**

### **Funding support for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and OAHP grants for easements, conservation management plans and technical assistance.**

Good morning, my name is Jim Coonan our family owns C2 Cattle Company in Jackson County. I am here today providing testimony in support of HB 3366. The ranch has been managed for the family by either my Dad or myself for 60 years. We run an organic cow/calf operation of some 900 head of cattle.

The ranch has benefited greatly from the support of OWEB funding and technical assistance for several projects that have included stream restoration, fish screens and conversion of traditional flood irrigation to a sprinkled pod system. The major projects have been as follows:

- Conversion of several major irrigated pastures from flood irrigation to a sprinkled pod system. The impact of this change reduced irrigation runoff from the pasture into the stream from 90% to less than 5%. Moreover, because of the efficiency of this system the cycle time for watering our fields dropped from over 20 days down to 14 days. To accomplish this transition, we received funding from several sources including NRCS and OWEB.
- Stream restoration of South Fork of Little Butte Creek which included re-establishing more meandering channels and the placement of large wood pieces to create deep pools. We also fenced off the stream, eliminated invasive species and planted natives. The stream has seen an uptick in native species including Coho, Chinook, and Winter and Summer Steelhead.
- Just last year we did a similar project on another of our streams called Salt Creek. We hope in 2024 to begin work on the North Fork of Little Butte Creek. When that work is completed we will have accomplished the following:
  - Restored 5.1 miles of streams;
  - Replanted some 104 acres of native forest;
  - Installed 8.5 miles of wildlife friendly fencing;
  - Placed some 890 logs in streams;
  - Removed two fish passage barriers;

- Leveraged OWEB dollars with nearly 1.9 million of federal funding. To date we have been awarded \$477,601 dollars and received \$743,641 of matching federal dollars.
- Major dollars and cents benefits to C2:
  - Funding for logs that would otherwise have little economic value;
  - High quality fencing to help with field rotation;
  - More efficient irrigation and better grass for cattle.

If you would like to come and visit firsthand what has been accomplished please let me know and we would be happy to give you a tour. Thank you.