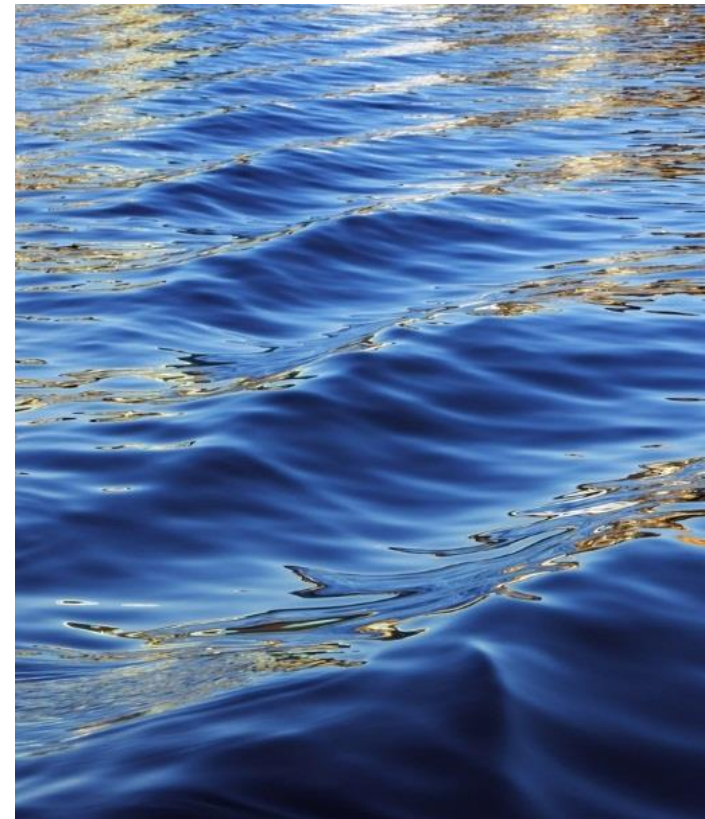




# HB3003: Biomass TC / Water Conservation & Stream Restoration

Managing Juniper for Ecological Benefits,  
Doug Riggs, C.O. Cities Organization (COCO)





*Redmond*

*Sisters*

*Maupin*

*Bend*

*Madras*

*Metolius*

*Prineville*

*LaPine*

*Culver*

# Issue: Explosive Juniper Intrusion is a Growing Threat to Water/Ecosystem Health and Climate



1,000% increase in Juniper coverage in past 60 years  
9-17 can consume 100% of annual precipitation  
Crowds out all native grasses, species  
**Drains streams and tributaries**  
Leads to massive wildfire risks and carbon emissions






# Junipers:

The “tree  
equivalent” of a  
blackberry bush.  
Good in small  
amounts.  
Damaging in large  
quantities.







**“A tenfold expansion of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis* spp. *occidentalis*) into the sagebrush steppe has led to the degradation of the economic and ecological potential of these landscapes.”**

***Brianna S. Sabin, Oregon State University, June, 2006***



## *Climate Challenges of Wildfires:*

UCLA/University of Chicago Study:

Dr. Michael Jarrett, a lead author of the study:

“Wildfire emissions in 2020 essentially negated 18 years of reductions in greenhouse gas emission. The positive impact of all that hard work over almost two decades is at risk of being swept aside by the smoke produced in a single year of record-breaking wildfires.”

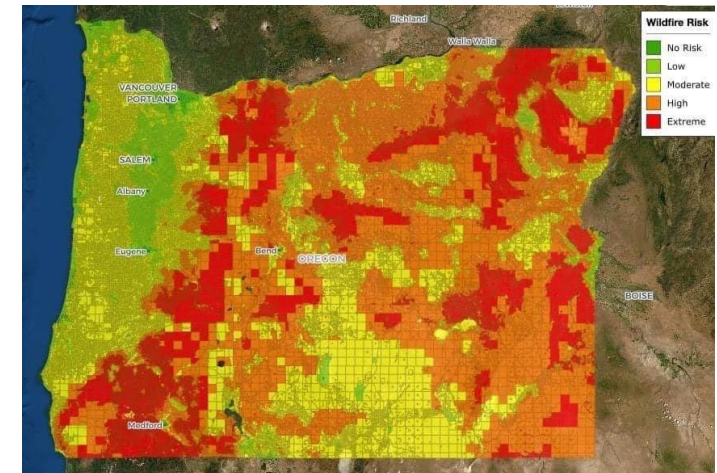
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/A-new-study-shows-just-how-awful-California-s-17515186.php>



1) Treatments will seek to restore native bunchgrasses and shrubs. The goal is for Juniper to be replaced with native sage steppe vegetation.

# HB3142/HB3003

- 7 regions (Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Harney, Wheeler, Lake, Klamath)
- 7 existing on-the-ground organizations (6 SWCDs and 1 County)
- Funding fast tracked (i.e. Project Turnkey, FutureReady)
- Target: Improving **water resources and ecological health**
- Monitoring/Scientific Direction: *Oregon State University*
- Other benefits: native grasses, sage grouse, mule deer, **wildfire reduction** (emissions, cost savings)
- Workforce Benefit
- Maps already in progress. Regions plan to hit the ground running this summer/fall
- ***Goal of HB3003 = Sustainability***



## REMOVAL – TROUT CREEK WATERSHED

**BEFORE**



Beaver Creek Watershed – Nov 2019

**AFTER**



Beaver Creek Watershed – June 2022



## 5 Wins for HB3003

5) Fewer wildfires. Oregon spent \$514 million on fighting wildfires in 2018, mainly in the areas covered by this program. Reducing annual wildfire costs by 10% ( $\$51.4 \times 6$  years), the state could save \$308.4 million.

1) It allows us to avoid coming back to the legislature every 2 years and asking for \$9 million in General fund dollars for the juniper management program

4) Pays for Itself: 200-300 construction workers, plus 350 – 500 ongoing workers equates to \$4.920 million in income tax revenues, plus wildfire reduction savings.

2) Addresses critical drought issues that are negatively impacting stream flows, fish and farms

3) The certainty of a state tax credit will incentivize private capital markets to finance the \$145+ million facility.

## REMEMBER TWO FACTS:

**1 year = 225% increase in  
stream flows**

**99.1% reduction in emissions  
versus wildfires**





# Broad Support for Proposals

Cities  
Counties  
Agriculture  
Irrigation districts  
Conservation districts  
River and fish advocates  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Economic development organizations/Workforce





## Questions:

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