



Baker County
1995 Third St.
Baker City, OR 97814

February 6, 2025

Testimony for House Bill 2170

Baker County could support this Bill if there were changes made. As it stands, the County cannot support it as Introduced as it is too vague.

Please consider changing, modifying, or adding:

- 1) Participation by the local government or local services district is voluntary, not mandatory.
- 2) To address Section 1 (4):
 - a. The local government or local service district must receive full compensation from the State, at the local rates to pay wages, and benefits if personnel qualify, for the staffing of the check stations.
 - b. The agreement must provide, in detail, what 'functions' and 'activities' are expected.
 - c. The personnel must stay as an employee of the local government or local service district and comply with local and state employment laws. All monitoring and performance of personnel will be conducted in coordination with local government or local service district.
- 3) Facilities, their maintenance, and utilities must be provided and paid for by the State.
- 4) To comply with Section 1 (3) of this Bill, check station personnel must be trained by the State so there's no misunderstandings of what is expected under ORS 830.589.

Baker County completely supports the need for additional check stations for invasive aquatic species. Should one, like the Quagga mussel, get started in the County, not only does it put our recreation sites on Brownlee Reservoir at great risk, but also increases the risks to the irrigation systems that help agriculture keep our economy sustainable.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Doni Bruland
Baker Co Nat Res/Parks Director

Supported by,

Christina Witham
Baker Co Commissioner