



## Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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April 4, 2025

To: Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Vice Chair  
Representative David Gomberg, Co-Vice Chair  
Representative Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jefferson Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Committee Co-Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

### **RE: HB3135**

House Bill 3135 directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to award grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state of Oregon to treat invasive western junipers. Continued funding for these projects is essential to the improvement of water quality, restoration of ecosystems, enhancement of ecological and wildlife biodiversity, and wildfire risk mitigation. The Jefferson Co. SWCD is thankful for the acknowledgement of this important work by the Legislature as exemplified in HB 3135.

In 2023, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 2010 which directed DAS to provide grants related to the treatment of western junipers to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts located in Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Harney, Klamath, Lake, and Wheeler Counties. This funding has provided our districts with the opportunity to partner with other local, state and federal agencies to coordinate on western juniper treatment efforts. To date, HB 2010 has helped our Soil and Water Conservation Districts treat over 16,326 acres of western juniper across the State of Oregon.

Starting in 2020, the Jefferson Co. SWCD, along with our partner, NRCS, have treated 7,658 acres in priority watersheds in eastern Jefferson County. The benefits from this work are vast, including more water making it to our streams. This has been a very effective tool in our effort to restore the wild summer steelhead population in Trout Creek, a vital tributary of the Deschutes River that provides critical habitat for spawning and rearing of the ESA listed wild summer steelhead.

With the State's ongoing investment in western juniper treatment through HB 3135, the Jefferson Co. SWCD will be able to continue our efforts to restore water quality and ecological health across Oregon landscapes. We urge you to support the continued investment in western juniper treatment through HB 3135.

For more information on each Soil & Water Conservation Districts' juniper treatment projects done to date, please visit <https://arcg.is/0OD4a80>.

Sincerely,

Adam Haarberg  
Program Manager  
Jefferson Co. Soil & Water Conservation District