

Submitter: Ray Kinney
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3372

OWRD estimates that all the domestic wells (88% of the number of wells in OR) in the state use only 4% of the groundwater pumped out of the ground for any reason, while irrigation water rights holders (7% of the wells) use 82% of the water pumped out of the ground for any reason. These are the smallest users in the system and account for a tiny portion of overall use. It is time to allow small farmers to feed their communities and support themselves within the reasonable exempt uses we already have.

We need to be realistic about what we prioritize for water use in our state. Allowing people to grow food or farm products for sale with a gallon restriction on ½ acre will not bankrupt the system, and farming is too much work for people to rush into production on such a small scale. Give communities back the ability to feed and provide for themselves, and local Farmer's Markets. pass HB 3372.

Ray Kinney

Salmon Water Farm: an experimental small-scale farm, doing feasibility studies to find potential crop varieties easily adapted to our Oregon Coast Range finger valley dry summer environments, that do not have to be irrigated once established. We experiment with rainwater harvesting off of roofs to support the youngest plants before planting them out. We are doing soil and water conservation practices to add too, and be synergistic with, the salmon population recovery efforts by all of our local practitioner partner agencies, local landowners, all residents and visitors to the Siuslaw watershed. We all, SSWCD, SWC, USFS, ODF, ODFW, MRT, the tribes, and more practitioner partners, have invested huge sums of money and vast amounts of collective energy, to get natural resource funding placed 'on the ground' for habitat restoration to benefit us all, and to be able to offer our excess benefits of local food production to the rest of Lane county, via Farmer's Market participation. Our work at Salmon Water Farm informs local residents about conservation effort, and, need for always learning how to improve conservation effort collectively. Limiting the abilities to have local food production, that strives to help salmon recovery in practices employed, participate in small scale cost-offsetting income, will harm much of our collective momentum for volunteer utilization by many of our participants. We are collectively doing award-winning work in our watershed, passing HB 3372 would help us continue our collective work.

I am commenting as a private citizen/farmer/conservation enthusiast, and my comments are not being made from my position on the SSWCD BOD, but, are

personal opinion as a resident of this watershed. Please do not 'throw the baby out with the bathwater'! Support local food production and small-scale commercial benefits for Lane County and the State of Oregon via Farmer's Market participation. Volunteer participation in the salmon recovery effort would be enabled and encouraged, and, is essential participation.