

**From:** [COOK Nirvana Z \\* WRD](#)  
**To:** [WRD Commissioners](#); [WOODCOCK Douglas E \\* WRD](#); [RANCIER Racquel R \\* WRD](#); [GALL Ivan K \\* WRD](#); [FRITZ-OGREN Kim L \\* WRD](#); [MCKAIN Emelie L \\* WRD](#)  
**Cc:** [COOK Nirvana Z \\* WRD](#)  
**Subject:** Written Public Comment - Agenda Item C - Deschutes Basin Assessment and Workplan  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 4:31:13 PM

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Good afternoon,

The email below was submitted as public comment on agenda Item C - Deschutes Basin Assessment and Workplan, by Tony Newbill of N3 Ranch.

Thank you,

*Nirvana Cook*

Executive Assistant to Acting Director Doug Woodcock  
and the Water Resources Commission

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**From:** [n3ranchlife@gmail.com](mailto:n3ranchlife@gmail.com) <[n3ranchlife@gmail.com](mailto:n3ranchlife@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** COOK Nirvana Z \* WRD <[Nirvana.Z.COOK@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Nirvana.Z.COOK@water.oregon.gov)>  
**Cc:** [julie.smitherman@medfordwater.or](mailto:julie.smitherman@medfordwater.or)  
**Subject:** Dear Nirvana , Please add these comments and items to the discussion for the Feb 23-24 meeting for the Deschutes Basin assessment , to consider SB 58 Cloud Seeding Bill as a Mitigating Tool for the Deschutes Basin

Dear Nirvana , Please add these comments and items to the discussion for the Feb 23-24 meeting for the Deschutes Basin assessment , to consider SB 58 Cloud Seeding Bill as a Mitigating Tool for the Deschutes Basin Climate Change Drought .

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB0058/Introduced>

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING  
February 23-24, 2023

C. Deschutes Basin Assessment and Workplan (1:00 PM – 1:30 PM)

We are steadily getting drier like Berkeley Laboratory is warning that the Cascades will be SNOWLESS in the Near Future , <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/11/03/snowpack-cascades-climate-change/>

And these reports one by your Department from 2021 , shows the Deschutes RIVER Basin AND Crooked RIVER Basin Surface and Ground Water Aquifers are reaching extreme decline Conditions , [https://www.opb.org/pdf/OWRDMemo\\_DeschutesGroundwaterLevelDeclines\\_2021-09-01\\_FINAL\\_1657754829743.pdf](https://www.opb.org/pdf/OWRDMemo_DeschutesGroundwaterLevelDeclines_2021-09-01_FINAL_1657754829743.pdf)  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/01/14/central-oregon-crook-county-extreme-drought-emergency/>

<https://www.opb.org/article/2022/07/19/deschutes-water-rights-access-well-drilling-groundwater-central-oregon/>

My family has been here in Central Oregon since before 1874 , dryland farming and ranching , when they buried my 3 Great Grandpa in the Grizzly Cemetery . Dryland Farming with my Dad and Grandpa in the 60s , 70s and 80s and 90s I'm pretty familiar with the History on Rainfall and Snow Fall in the Cascades from the 1930's till 1990's according to ASCS annual reporting was 12-14 inch annual rainfall and 150-180 inch annual snow base in the Areas of the Cascades above the Crescent - Crane Prairie basins . Since the mid 1990's its been Half that and the OWRD report above shows this time line in its assessment !!!!!!!

This Lawsuit the Center for Biological Diversity has unleashed on us here but they now want 600 CFS winter flows released from Wickiup Reservoir during the winter . This will all but Keep the Reservoir drained at current Snow Fall Levels !!!!!!! Madras is Toast for Irrigation water if this plays out , and our Irrigation water is Deschutes river flows and I believe that if this practice is allowed it will "BLEED" the water shed DRY and by Mid-summer the Deschutes River will be nothing more than a Trickle !!!!!!!!!!! <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-launched-to-protect-oregon-spotted-frogs-in-upper-deschutes-river-2023-01-12/>

Heres another tell tail sign that we are reaching a critical point of the Climate Change Drought in Central Oregon !!!

The Metolius River is the closest major head water to the Cascades where snow pack AND 3 Sisters Glacier water recharge this head water !!! WE LOST the Glaciers 2 years ago !!!!!!!!!!!

The Great Outdoors: Slow flows at the Metolius River headwaters

<https://centraloregondaily.com/%E2%96%B6%E2%8F-the-great-outdoors-the-source-of-the-metolius-river/>

Glaciers are what gives our ground water aquifer Recharging in Central Oregon an extended Boost into late summer months before winter can come back to pick up and continue the process . The trajectory we are on is intensified in why we are seeing Central Oregon ground water aquifers in " Accelerated Decline " !!!!!!!

<https://www.wweek.com/environment/2020/10/19/scientists-held-a-funeral-for-a-glacier-that-melted-in-central-oregon/>

We had Kala Golden with Idaho Water Resources Board come to the Farm Fair in Madras Oregon last week to advise Farmers on Idaho's efforts to use Cloud Seeding as a Mitigation Tool in fighting Climate Change drought effects .

Kala Said that 5 years is what's needed to see the results .

<https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrp/programs/cloud-seeding-program/>

<http://jeffcoseed.com/farm-fair/>

You guys may want to see if Kala Golden from Idaho Water Resources could join you virtually for this meeting to go over the Idaho Cloud Seeding Projects like she did at our Jefferson County Farm Fair, to discuss the similarities between the state's watersheds and how cloud seeding can be implemented to help mitigate this disaster. There are no studies that give us a near future assessment of the timeline for the climate to heal and return to normal rainfall averages if we were to end fossil fuel use today. But we have this tool that could help us mitigate our water shortages while we work to change our emissions impact.

Kala Golden's contract info is in this link, <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb/programs/cloud-seeding-program/>

Thank you for your time and service, and consideration.

Tony Newbill N3 Ranch  
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