

HARTT Laura A * WRD

From: J D <oregonnative1967@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 5:16 PM
To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: Shutting down small farms

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Hello,

I heard about the recent decision to shut down small farms in southern Oregon and I'm really disappointed. Oregon is known for supporting our farmers, especially small farms. You can use 5,000 gallons for commercial use, but even if a small farm is using only 1000 gallons for irrigation they're shut down? How does that make sense? I know water is a finite resource, but small farms are not the major problem. Additionally, you can irrigate for non commercial uses including non edible lawns to your hearts content, but once you start feeding your local community you get shut down? I believe 100% that small farms (and the general community) need to learn how to irrigate less, but indiscriminately going after small farms is not the answer. Maybe there should be exemptions for using only drip irrigation or only irrigating between certain hours or not using overhead watering or grants to encourage dry farming or using under blank amount of gallons or the type of farm you have: animals vs produce vs marijuana vs grass seed etc. The list goes on and on with alternatives to just shutting down farms. It's incredibly challenging obtaining water rights and forces our community, including you, to be more reliant upon big agriculture. Please don't go down this road-think outside the box and allow small farms to thrive. Thank you