

ANDRE MATZKE
OREGON DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATR QUALITY DIVISION
811 SW 6TH AVENUE
PORTLAND OREGON 97520

I AM A RANCHER IN ASHLAND/PHOENIX AREA OF SOUTHERN
OREGON. WE HAVE HAD A COW/CALF OPERATION FOR MORE THAN 26
YEARS. WE ALSO RAISE OUR OWN HAY. IN PAST YEARS THE IRRIGATION
DITCH WAS USED BY SOME PROPERTY OWNERS TO GET RID OF THEIR
GARBAGE , EVEN SOME SEPTICS DRAINED INTO THE DITCHES. THE
MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT, DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF
IMPROVING THIS CONDITION THAT EXISTED FOR A NUMBER OF PAST
YEARS. DILIGENCE BY THE DITCH RIDERS AND IRRIGATORS REPORTING
ALSO HELPED STOP THIS PRACTICE.

THE NEED TO CONTINUE MONITORING AGRICULTURE PRACTICES
TO MAINTAIN OUR WATER QUALITY IS PARAMONT.
THE DEPT OF AG. IS RESTRICTIVE ENOUGH.....ie...OREGON REVISED
STATUTE 568.9.2 [1]..ODA ENFORCABLE WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS.
WE HAVE PUT IN SCREENS AND WEIRS TO ABATE AND REMOVE TRASH.
THE INABILITY TO DEMOSS DITCHES HAS CAUSED ENORMOUS PROBLEMS,
CLOGGING PIPES, PUMPS, AND WATER BOX JUNCTIONS. DEQ'S
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OUR IRRIGATION WATER DEALS IN ABSTRACT
FACTS. WORDS LIKE "IF POLLUTANTS GET INTO THE WATER"
"POSSIBLY CONTAMINATE FISH" "COULD BE EATEN BY PEOPLE".
DEQ'S PROPOSAL RECOMENDING 23 FISH MEALS A MONTH IS UNREAL,

HAVING FISH EVERY DAY OF THE MONTH, EXCEPTING SATURDAYS AND
SUNDAYS??.....24 TIMES A MONTH??

COME ON!! THIS IS JUST ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO PUT THE CATTLE
INDUSTRY IN AN UNATTAINABLE POSITION. THE LOSS OF AVAILABLE
PASTURE AND GRAZING LAND IS DRYING UP THE CATTLE NUMBERS IN
OREGON. THIS APPEARS TO BE THE ENVIROMENTALISTS GOAL.
PLEASE PUT SOME COMMON SENSE INTO POLICY MAKING.



DON ELLSWORTH
3303 NVALLEYVIEW RD.
ASHLAND, OR
97520

541 482-3020