

Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association



2009 Legislative Proposal:

“Little R” Relinquishment and Conservation Operation & Management Measures for New Water Supplies and Irrigation Development

Soil Moisture Monitoring And Probes

Weather Forecast and Crop Water Use Data

Irrigation Scheduling and Water Management

What Is “Little R” Relinquishment and Conservation O&M?

“Little R” refers to “de facto relinquishment” of that portion of an existing water right—permit or certificate—that is not being “used” due to the annual application of conservation operation and management measures. These measures include the application and use of:

- **Soil moisture and monitoring probes for vegetable and tree-fruit crops.**
- **Weather forecast and crop use data for real-time irrigation scheduling and water management—matching daily crop needs with precision water applications.**

These water efficiency measures require **annual costs and implementation** in order to secure conservation savings and water management objectives—they are **annual operation and management actions taken by water users.**

The Principal Legislative Objectives Are To:

- **Expand the role of conservation and water management to meet increasing Columbia-Snake River water supply demands, consistent with the policy objectives of existing water management legislation (RCW 90.90).**
- **Fewer new water rights would need to be issued to meet irrigation demands.**
- **All O&M water conservation savings could be retained by water right holders, and made eligible for water spreading to new ground. Water savings would be approximately 10% of the documented water right use.**
- **Provide equity to all water right holders who apply conservation O&M measures. No one would be subjected to “de facto” water right relinquishment.**