Chris Stearns

Will Lower Columbia water rights transfers encourage similar transfers to the Oregon side of the lower Columbia from Umatilla to Hood River?

Water Rights law isn't designed to handle all of the local concerns or even all the statewide concerns. Other states have utilized county or state zoning laws to protect agricultural lands especially from encroaching suburban development. New York State has preserved orchard lands that protect place name apple varieties such as: "Cortland", "Rome" or "MacIntosh". N.Y. State zoning laws are utilized to protect food production nearest to New York City as well so as to prevent the loss of local food production. While agricultural markets have certainly changed and have become much more internationalized; I don't think our state's citizens, which our legislators represent, have given up the idea of food security through the preservation of local food production where it can be maintained for their benefit!!