

**From:** [rob.walton](mailto:rob.walton@noaa.gov)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB1511  
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I retired from NOAA Fisheries in 2018 and am continuing to work on the recovery of protected salmon and steelhead, as I have for over 30 years. I have concluded that the single best, most cost-effective strategy we could pursue salmon recovery would be to restore beaver bonds by enabling beavers to survive - and let nature do the work. The best scientific information available describes natural beaver ponds as creating high quality rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead.

SB 1511 contains language that sounds like it promotes natural habitat, like beaver-based restoration, but it is in fact a ruse that seems intended to allow dirt, gravel and rock dams like the ones on the Silvies Valley Ranch. SB1511 would allow "Environmental restoration weirs," also known as push-up dams, claiming that they are good for the environment. I oppose this bill because it would allow dams that would block the passage of Oregon's native migratory fish and require fish passage to be added - an poor substitute for beaver dams analogues that mimic natural beaver dams. I think SB1511 is contrary to the best available scientific information on the subjects of river restoration, salmon recovery, and beaver-based restoration.

I refer the legislature to two scientific documents that describe strategies and actions that would be beneficial to salmon recovery, river and stream ecology, and restoration of groundwater in arid areas.

- The Beaver Restoration Guidebook . Working with Beaver to Restore Streams, Wetlands, and Floodplains . Version 1.0, June 30, 2015. Photo credit: Worth A Dam Foundation ([martinezbeavers.org](http://martinezbeavers.org)) Prepared by . US Fish and Wildlife Service Janine Castro . National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Michael Pollock and Chris Jordan  
<https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/ToolsForLandowners/RiverScience/Documents/BRG%20v.1.0%20final%20reduced.pdf>
- Low-Tech Process-based Restoration of Riverscapes Design Manual <http://lowtechpbr.restoration.usu.edu/manual>

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

I am available if you have questions.

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