

The beaver is a keystone species. It has been given this name because it provides a habitat for other species and other species, therefore, depend on the beaver. They provide a habitat for various waterfowl species and for multiplied imperiled salmon species. Habitats created by beavers bring significant economic, social, and ecological benefits to Oregonians. Beavers provide natural and effective firebreaks and a post-fire habitat; they capture and store carbon (helpful during our crisis of climate change).

The HSUS provides these additional points: The bill encourages beaver presence on the landscape to create an atmosphere where Oregon sees more benefits from increased, and more widely-distributed beaver populations in Oregon.

The bill removes the predatory animal status for beaver, which allows Oregon's wildlife experts, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon as it does for the vast majority of wildlife in Oregon, including deer, elk, black bear, wolves, raccoons, fish, and others.

The bill encourages the use of non-lethal co-existence tools to prevent beaver-related property and infrastructure damage.

The bill does not remove any tools from the toolbox for landowners in Oregon, as lethal removal of beaver is still an option.

The bill returns wildlife management to Oregon's wildlife experts at ODFW, without precluding the Oregon Department of Agriculture from working with landowners to protect their property, crops, and infrastructure.