

Beaver are the unsung and under-appreciated stewards of Oregon's ecological health, and even though their watershed enhancement roll is well established, publicly, it is poorly recognized, Oregon's lands are richer for Beaver which provide the state and her denizens with very important benefits, including:

- Increased wildfire resilience through natural and effective firebreaks
- Increased water security through creation of wetlands and ponds
- Carbon capture and storage
- Improved drinking water quality and stream temperatures;
- Rearing habitat for multiple imperiled salmonid species.

This bill HB 284 encourages the return to a wide-spread beaver distribution across Oregon.

The bill removes the predatory animal status for beaver, which allows Oregon's wildlife experts to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon as they do other wildlife.

The bill encourages the use of excellent yet simple and non-lethal tools to allow better human:beaver co-existence. These tools are proven and help prevent beaver-related property and infrastructure damage.

Landowners can be secure in the knowledge that this bill does not remove any tools from the use of landowners in Oregon, as lethal removal of beaver is still an option. Please remove the predatory status for a healthier and more fecund Oregon landscape.