

My husband & I lived in Alaska for over 30 years & have been in Oregon for 8 years. We are avid outdoors people. In our travels around Oregon it became very obvious to us that there was one animal missing from the landscape... Beavers. We saw many place names with the word "beaver" in it, but not a beaver in sight. So we began to look into the status of beavers in Oregon. To our surprise & shock, beavers are given "predatory status". We assume this is because they occasionally cause flooding on private property thus creating a nuisance situation, but predatory? No.

In this day & age of a warming, drying climate we need beavers more than ever. I could give numerous examples where beaver have moved back into an area & due to damming they have improved wetlands, increased the water table, improved & expanded prime habitat for a myriad of wildlife including fish. There are also numerous benign alternatives to trapping beaver if there are issues. All successful. Trapping of problem beavers should be the last resort.

A brief example of beavers improving habitat occurred when beavers moved out of the mountains into Anchorage, Alaska. Vegetation grew lush along Chester Creek, salmon runs improved, black & grizzly bears moved in to town. All this provided hours entertainment for residents as they watched the beavers go about their daily lives. Predatory? Only if your a willow bush. So I hope HB 2844 is passed to allow ODFW to manage beavers in a more holistic manner that benefits the environment & all Oregonians.