

HB 2844 is an excellent beginning to recognizing the value beavers bring to all Oregonians. They are the best habitat engineers around and if left alone, do their own maintenance on what they create, thus saving tax dollars now spent on restoration. Without more habitat, salmonids will continue to disappear and other wildlife will lose out as well. Requiring ODFW permits to trap beavers and then publishing the number of trapped or relocated beavers annually is just a starting place. Further, developing ODFW rules around taking beavers should include ALL concerned stakeholders, not just hunters and trappers. In the past, there have been ODFW committees on beavers that resulted in no changes and ignored beaver supporters. It is time to do this differently! Beavers are partners, not predators. The Sandy River Watershed Council supports this bill.