

Because I believe beavers are essential for Oregon's ecological health and can provide Oregonians with many positive benefits, I am submitting comments in support of legislation to remove the predatory status from beaver in Oregon. This bill is important because currently beavers are listed as predatory animals on private land which means hunting and trapping on private land can occur year-round without limits. Beavers benefit us with flood control and improved water quality, and thus should receive adequate protection. They also increase wildfire resilience through natural and effective firebreaks, and water security with the creation of wetlands and ponds (which also benefit many other species). Beavers also improve drinking water quality and stream temperatures which supports greater fish sustainability and diversity.

- Rearing habitat for multiple imperiled salmonid species.

One would hope in the 21st century that we can find non-lethal co-existence tools to prevent beaver-related property and infrastructure damage.