

Beaver are a vital component for Oregon's ecological health, and can provide positive benefits, including increased wildfire resilience (through natural and effective firebreaks and post-fire habitat); increased water security through wetlands and ponds storing surface and groundwater; and carbon capture and storage that helps remove carbon from the atmosphere.

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