

The relationship between animals and their environment is what keeps the planet healthy for all of us. Beavers are a keystone species and a vital component for Oregon's ecological health. They are habitat engineers for wetland systems, and wetlands are invaluable habitat. Beavers can provide Oregonians with vast positive 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 encourages beaver presence widely-distributed across Oregon and removes the predatory animal status for beaver, which allows Oregon's wildlife experts to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon as they do other wildlife. I care about the compassionate and respectful treatment of all animals, and the bill encourages the use of non-lethal co-existence tools to prevent beaver-related property and infrastructure damage. The bill does not remove any tools from the toolbox for landowners in Oregon, as lethal removal of beaver is still an option. Please pass this bill and help protect beavers, our important partners in critical ecological and social services, and in protection and restoration of streams and watersheds.