

Beaver are an important and historically widespread component of Oregon's ecology, and are important to Oregon's culture, as evidenced by the state flag. They provide so many positive benefits, from wetland habitats and water security to wildfire resilience.

Wildfire seasons are getting longer and more destructive. By providing fire-breaks and wetland areas that serve as refuge during fires, beaver habitat are vital to the state's future to recover from wildfires. We all lived through those awful days in September of off-the-chart, record-breaking bad air quality. Without action, that may become our new normal. Increasing beaver on the landscape must be part of that action.

Remove the "predatory animal" status from beaver and encourage non-lethal coexistence with this keystone species.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Heidi Perry
Portland, OR