

I write in support of HB 2844. It is finally time that we remove beaver from the predatory animal designation and start to manage the beaver as an integral member of Oregon's ecological communities (like deer, black bear, etc.). Beaver are ecological engineers that can create habitat for many other species. In particular, beaver activity can mean cooler stream temperatures and increased fish rearing habitat, both benefiting our beloved salmonids. Due to climate change, Oregon's future is one that will be hotter and drier, challenging human's dependence on natural resources. Beaver activity creates natural firebreaks to dampen wildfire spread and promotes water security on the landscape by storing more water in wetlands and ponds. Let's let the beavers get back to work in Oregon!