

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the item 5-4 in HB 3124, which allocates \$6 million to the OCRF to do low-tech process-based restoration across the state.

Most of the waterways of our state have become disconnected from the soil around them—collapsed into incised streams that bleed our freshwater away from the landscape. Low-tech, process-based restoration empowers humans to pack those wounds at scale, without extensive engineering or heavy machinery. These restoration techniques, which include Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs), were innovated in Oregon's own Bridge Creek. This technique for emulating the ecosystem engineering of beavers has become popular across the nation and the Northern Hemisphere of our planet.

I write to you from a 16th century house in Deven England, where I am attending a conference on beavers. Even here, BDAs are now being used and Oregon is referenced by restoration practitioners in England as a leader in the world for humans partnering with beavers and restoring waterways (God help us).

Please support the item 5-4 in HB 3124, so we can continue to build upon what we've done to empower our neighbors with the low-tech tools to heal their waterways, and perhaps we will become more deserving of our international reputation along the way.

Thank you,
Jakob

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