



## HB 3464: Enhancing Oregon's Fire Resiliency and Water Security through Beaver Management

**THE PROBLEM:** Beavers are classified as “predatory animal” on private lands in Oregon. As a result, beavers can be killed with little to no regulation or monitoring in the Beaver State.

### *Beavers: our allies against climate change impacts*

- Beaver-modified habitat enhances fire resiliency and creates climate refugia for other species.
- Beavers improve water security, sequesters carbon, and creates healthy habitat for salmon.
- Fewer beavers mean increased wildfire risk, less salmon habitat and decreased water security.
- For the above reasons, beavers are considered keystone species. If they are gone, other species will follow.

### *Why are beavers classified as “predatory?”*

- Beavers fall in the scientific order “rodentia” and under current Oregon law ORS 610, all rodents are classified as “predatory.” It is not a result of the animal’s biology or ecology. “Predatory” status is erroneous and unscientific.
- Beavers are herbivores, that is, they do not prey on other animals.

### *Challenges of “Predatory” Status*

- Because of their “predatory” status on private lands, Oregon allows unlimited killing of beavers. There is no tracking of this beaver removal.
- Because of their status, ODFW has no authority to manage them or regulate harvest on private lands.
- There is no state wide population monitoring of beavers by ODFW – we do not know how many beavers we have in our state!

**THE SOLUTION:** HB 3464. If we change this one classification, Oregon will be more fire resilient, will have healthier salmon runs, and more!

### *What does HB 3464 do?*

- It removes beaver from “predatory animal” statute.
- It streamlines beaver management into a single state agency (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) for informed management such that the benefits of beaver in mitigating climate change impacts like wildfire, drought, and protection of imperiled species is accounted for and fully realized.
- It closes data collection gaps outlined by state and federal agencies, public stakeholders and the Beaver Working Group for more informed management of beaver.
- It upholds the provisions on beaver take under the Private Forest Accord for all private forestland owners.
- It provides landowners with ability to take beaver without permit in response to imminent threat to infrastructure and crops damage

### *How did the bill do in the House Committee?*

The bill was assigned to the House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment and successfully moved out of committee with **unanimous bipartisan** support.



Photo: Beaver habitat mitigates damage after Idaho's Sharps Fire, by Dr. Joe Wheaton, Utah State University.