

Submitter: John Livingston

On Behalf Of: homeowner

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

I have seen very positive results where beavers are allowed to multiply naturally and create ponds to replenish habitat and groundwater percolation. Beavers are critically important to restoring our environment. They are a keystone species that create wetlands and wet meadows that provide habitat for salmon and other species, sequester carbon and create natural firebreaks. However, in Oregon they are classified as a “predatory animal.” This status allows for unlimited killing of beaver on private lands without a permit and without any tracking of the number of beaver killed. HB 3464 is common-sense legislation that would remove the predatory animal designation from beavers in Oregon.

It allows ODFW to begin to manage beaver on private land in Oregon, as it does other wildlife species.

The bill also prompts the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish a system for beaver management and beaver removal on private lands.

It will allow ODFW and the Commission to promote the use of non-lethal beaver management tools before resorting to lethal removal by:

Setting standards on when beavers can be removed

Create a reporting system on beaver removals in the state

Require landowners to report beaver killings to ODFW so the state can have a better picture of the landscape and make effective decisions to minimize harmful impacts of wildfires

Please pass this legislation and document the positive results of more beavers.

sincerely, John Livingston, Salem.