

Submitter: Phil Harris

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

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

Thank you,

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