



Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

March 21, 2023

**Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment**

RE: Support HB 3464

Dear Chair Marsh,

The Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society includes over 500 active wildlife professionals and students in the fields of wildlife biology, management, research, administration, and education. We view HB 3464 as a necessary administrative change to the designation of beaver (*Castor canadensis*), in that the beaver would no longer be defined as a predatory animal.

While managed as a furbearer under the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), its predatory designation allows private landowners to kill beaver when property damage is involved at any time of year, yet there is no record of where or how many animals were taken. HB 3464 does not impact landowners ability to kill damaging animals but it does require reporting of such occurrences which is important to the overall management and understanding of beaver populations statewide. The bill directs the ODFW Commission to determine rules of implementing any permit or reporting requirements. If the bill is enacted we recommend as few requirements to landowners experiencing damage as possible.

With the increasing impacts of climate change and in particular the effects of drought across Oregon, beavers have gained tremendous notoriety for the ecological benefits they provide including water retention, wetland development, creating habitats for a variety of species some of which have declining populations, and fire breaks in forested areas.

We believe the changes provided in HB3464 will also clear up some confusion as to what agency has full authority over management of beaver.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

**Jim Greer
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Chair, Conservation Committee
Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society**