



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Office of the Director

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 947-6044

FAX: (503) 947-6042

odfw.com

**Date: March 24, 2023**

**To: The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources**



## **Senate Bill 830**

Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) appreciates this opportunity to provide information relevant to Senate Bill 830 and has no position on the bill.

ODFW has long recognized the American beaver as an ecosystem engineer and keystone species by its ability to modify landscapes through damming activity. These activities can provide valuable and often critical habitats for a variety of wildlife species, including federally listed (ESA) coho salmon, mid-Columbia summer steelhead, and bull trout. ODFW has made multiple efforts to promote these key habitats including recent efforts to develop a Beaver Action Plan to identify immediate, priority actions that staff will undertake to accelerate the restoration of beaver-modified habitats in Oregon.

Nearly extirpated by 1900, beaver have made a remarkable comeback in many areas of Oregon through natural recolonization and relocation efforts by ODFW and others. To promote continued expansion and use of beaver as a habitat management tool, a collaboration of ODFW fish and wildlife biologists, wildlife veterinarians, and beaver stakeholders produced the ODFW Beaver Relocation Requirements establishing a consistent permitting process for non-ODFW individuals and groups to relocate beaver. These requirements establish expectations and guidance for decision-making, factoring in numerous disciplines of wildlife management including beaver habitat requirements, wildlife behavior and ecology, animal welfare and disease. The requirements include considerations for relocation of beaver across Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC3) basins, which would be the case when moving beaver from western Oregon to central and eastern Oregon.

Senate Bill 830 proposes that, in consultation with persons engaged in forest practices and other stakeholders, ODFW will develop a program for relocating beavers from areas of western Oregon to central and eastern Oregon. ODFW would want to ensure that any program is consistent with the ODFW Beaver Relocation Requirements.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide information on this bill.

### **CONTACTS:**

**Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director, (503) 947-6072**