

Submitter: David Harrison

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: HB3464

On behalf of the membership of the Salem Audubon Society I write in support of HB 3464. This bill would streamline beaver management into a single state agency and take a fuller accounting of beavers' role as a keystone species.

Currently beavers are classified as a "predatory animal" on private lands in Oregon, which means landowners can kill beavers with no regulation or monitoring. This classification has no basis in science, as beavers are not predators, but rather eat only plants. Because of their status as "predators," ODFW has no authority to manage beavers or regulate beaver harvest on private lands. We now recognize that beavers provide all sorts of benefits, including climate mitigation, preventing wildfires, and creating valuable habitat for salmon and other wildlife.

HB 3464 would extend the provisions on private take of beaver from the Private Forest Accord to all private forestland owners but would still allow private landowners to take beaver without a permit in response to an imminent threat to infrastructure or crops.

HB 3464 is long overdue. I hope you will help ensure that it passes.