



## Williams Community Forest Project

May 3, 2023

Re: HB3464

### Beaver Status Change

The House Committee has passed House Bill 3464 which would change the status of the beaver in Oregon from a “predator” to a furbearer animal. We encourage the Senate to vote in favor of the change. As landowners and concerned citizens in Southern Oregon and Josephine County, we want to express our wholehearted support for the Bill sponsored by Patty Marsh of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment and representing Jackson County.

Beavers are an important aquatic animal that are well misunderstood. They are critical to the wetlands and waterways of Oregon and many animals and plants have evolved with the beaver. Beavers are vegetarians and eat shrubs, shoots, buds, foliage, twigs of willow and cottonwood trees and are not a predator on the landscape. Beavers store water and filter streams making it stay on the landscape longer to provide water for downstream usage over longer time periods. They are a keystone species which builds and supports habitat for many other native wildlife. Salmon thrive in beaver ponds and the loss of beavers on the landscape has contributed to loss of salmon juvenile rearing and survival in our creeks and rivers.

Any problems that landowners encounter with the beavers can easily be address with a call to ODFW who has developed a program that can manage the beaver and mitigate for any flooding or tree cutting that may occur and will move or relocate beavers that are at risk.

We recommend that HB 3464 be approved, changing the classification of the beaver from predator to fur bearing mammal. Please vote in favor of this bill when it reaches the floor of the Representatives.

Chas Rogers, Williams Creek Watershed Council

Cheryl Bruner, Williams Community Forest Project

Membership totaling over 100 concerned citizens of Williams.