



KALMIOPSIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1265 • Port Orford OR • 97465

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SUPPORT FOR HB 4014

Greetings! I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our organization has 400 members in Curry County who support conservation of habitat for birds, fish and wildlife, and we strongly support HB 4014, the bill that will help landowners who are already living with beavers and would like to explore innovative, non-lethal management methods that can help allow beavers to co-existence.

Beavers are important “ecosystem engineers,” building the wetlands that are crucial for so many other creatures —from coho salmon, to a wide variety of birds and wildlife. In our region, the lack of off channel habitats and wetlands is a key limiting factor for coho salmon, and yet in places where beavers are allowed to persist, they can help to restore the very habitat that is needed.

ODFW has developed a 3-year beaver management plan that recognizes the importance of private lands in maintaining a healthy population of beavers that can continue to provide critical ecosystem services. However, the agency does not have any funds dedicated to implement the plan or help landowners with known methods that allow for coexistence with beavers.

Landowners who would like to explore non-lethal tools for managing beavers on their lands are often deterred by not having easy access to the technical expertise to do so and don't know where to get credible information. ODFW would be the ideal agency to provide this knowledge, but the department currently does not have dedicated staff and funding to help support this technical support that will help to provide for an important habitat conservation need.

The funding provided by HB 4014 would will help landowners to better co-exist with beavers, which will have broader positive effects for wildlife, and for us all.

Thank you for considering our view.

Ann Vileisis, President, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society