

Oregon Legislative Support

Support for HB 3143

Landowners Living with Beavers

Grant Program for Beaver

Feb. 5, 2025

The Williams Creek Watershed Council supports the Beaver Grant Program Fund, especially for the Williams and Applegate Watershed ecosystem. At one time the Southern Oregon area was inhabited with thousands of beavers, building wetlands and developing habitats for fish and other wildlife. Today the encroachment of humans onto the landscape has pushed the beaver into isolated areas as well as onto farmland and other private properties.

The Grant Programs will provide an avenue to help beavers occupy landscapes that they can be useful and promote the aquatic habitats that need to be active. Solutions to keep the beaver in their preferred habitats are sorely needed as we see the degradation of the watershed stream systems throughout the landscape. Our fish habitat is falling behind and recovery will depend on the beaver to make suitable wetlands that fish thrive in and we need ways to promote them onto private and public wetland areas.

We have workers that would be active in promoting beavers on the landscape by outreach programs, active remediation, and restoration instream and along the banks. Grant funding would be very useful in actively working to keep beavers productive and make our habitats more viable for all species of wildlife.

Please fund this important program that follows the change in status of the beaver from prediction to fur bearing animal that is useful to the aquatic environment.

Chas Rogers

Williams Creek Watershed Council

Applegate Partnership

Williams Community Forest Project