

Submitter: Marina Richie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I strongly support this bill. I have witnessed firsthand the power of beavers to transform damaged watersheds. I was privileged to interview a landowner who had changed his mind about beavers when he saw what they accomplished on his brothers' adjacent property --on Marks Creek in the Ochocos. It's a marvelous story and I hope you will read it and share with others. The link is here: <https://westernbeavers.org/marks-creek-comes-to-life/>

I also wrote a version that appeared in Central Oregon Daily-- I will attach the PDF (parts one and two) in separate testimony
Thank you for entering this into the testimony record.

This is a critically important bill to pass. As climate change has already led to more drought, snowpacks melting earlier and late season flows diminished, beavers are helping farmers and ranchers and the native trout and salmon fishery by naturally storing water and rejuvenating meadows. While I understand beavers can put their dams in places that are problematic, Living with Beavers programs are resolving conflicts --with mechanisms that range from beaver deceivers (to prevent clogging of culverts) to protecting trees with fencing.

In addition to that impressive evidence of beaver restoration on Marks Creek and landowner support, I have another experience to share. I wrote interpretive signs for a restoration project on the Middle Fork of the John Day River- --led by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on their Forrest ranch property. Beavers moved in immediately after the restoration and began working their magic. I just wrote a blog about this: <https://marinarichie.com/2025/03/20/river-of-renewal-rising/>
Thanks for entering that in the testimony as well.

Note that in both cases, restoring a creek and then a river needed restoration for beavers to then come in and be successful. I'm sure you are familiar with beaver analogs? That's a great way to get the habitat in a better place to speed up beaver return and make them successful as natural engineers. Not trapping beavers in critical waterways is a key step--and in some places they don't need any extra help to improve waterways. But where they do, I hope the Legislature will provide funding for beaver analogs, river restoration, and living with beavers work to prevent conflicts. Is it worth it? Absolutely. Once the beavers come in and thrive they are providing essential services for FREE--the investment has vast returns--cleaning and filtering

water, keeping water cool, nourishing meadows and riparian areas, storing waters for dry times, and more. Thank you.