

Submitter: Jennifer Wolfsong

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 3932. There are over 100,000 miles of waterways in Oregon that are in poor health. Passing HB 3932 would allow beavers to help restore these waterways by closing hunting and trapping of beavers on these impaired waterways on public lands. Beavers are ecosystem engineers. Beaver activities, such as canal-digging, dam-building, and pond-filling, can help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that filter toxins, expand riparian habitats for wildlife including sensitive bird species and incorporate woody debris in streams for salmon. When protections are afforded to beavers, they, in turn, directly increase and enhance wetlands and biological diversity. With proper management emphasizing the use of non-lethal conflict mitigation techniques and stewardship are in place, beavers can thrive, creating an environment supporting many rare and sensitive plants and animals, restoring riparian corridors, and building resilient ecological systems that help to mitigate against the effects of land-use changes, increased impervious surfaces, and the impact of climate change. Please pass HB 3932. Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Wolfsong