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My wife and I strongly support HB 3932. We are very well qualified to speak on the value of beavers because for the past 18 years we have been restoring our 80 acre preserve that has Coyote Creek running through it and two other feeder creeks. Our property is located one half mile from Fern Ridge Reservoir and one eighth of a mile from Fern Ridge Wildlife area. This whole area is a wetlands basin that feeds Fern Ridge Reservoir. As part of the conservation work on our property, we have been working to replant the riparian corridor along our portion of Coyote Creek. Some of the challenges we face are that a large section of the creek had been cleared of all trees and shrubs and then overgrazed and degraded by cattle making it extremely difficult to revegetate the creek. Because many of our neighbors properties have similar creek degradation and as a result, Coyote Creek now runs seasonally.

As some of our plantings have taken hold, we have noticed beavers moving up the creek from Fern Ridge Wildlife area, looking to establish new territories. Because of the global warming and creek degradation, they have been unsuccessful in extending their range up Coyote Creek until this year, when they actually built a working dam on our property. The dam raises the creek by several inches and is creating new wetlands that are helping the creek hold water longer. As the climate gets hotter in the Willamette Valley, more creeks are drying up sooner and the water table is dropping. This hurts all of us, but it especially hurts the wild animals that live in this region. We are doing everything we can to support the beaver population and create new habitat for them to expand their range. This winter, an adult beaver was hit and killed on Central Road by our property, trying to expand their territory. As we continue to restore this once beautiful property, we recognize the critical role beavers play in nature.

If we want to preserve some semblance of Oregon's incredible natural resources, it is imperative to protect the beaver whose niche in nature is to heal and restore nature, and create habitat for other wildlife.

Thank You

Mark and Connie Peabody