

Submitter: Rebecca Steffoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Oregon Legislators:

I am writing in support of H.B. 3932. Closing beaver trapping on public lands where stream quality is impaired will benefit us all.

As a frequent hiker and camper in many parts of Oregon, from the forests of the Cascades to the high desert, I love our public lands for their beauty and variety. Streams, ponds, and rivers are not just a big part of that beauty and variety--they are a vital part of our landscapes. Healthy streams with moderated water flow contribute to environmental quality in multiple ways. They create cleaner water, support thriving riparian vegetation, and provide better habitat for wildlife, including salmon.

One of the best ways to achieve healthy streams--and certainly the most natural--is to let beavers do their thing. By building and maintaining dams, these landscape engineers provide low-cost, highly effective services, including in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

H.B. 3932 does not propose a permanent moratorium on beaver trapping along streams on public land, nor does it propose closing beaver trapping at all on private land. It merely pauses trapping along waterways on public land that have been classed as "impaired" by the Department of Environmental Quality. This commonsense measure would protect beavers while giving them time to improve stream quality through natural measures.

I urge you to pass H.B. 3932 and let Oregon's state mammal do what it does best!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Rebecca Steffoff
Portland, Oregon
Member, Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA)