

Submitter: Christine Psyk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Committee Members, I urge you to pass HB3932 which would close hunting and trapping of beaver on public lands (waterways) that DEQ has classified as impaired for water quality.

Oregon has 310,464 miles of big rivers and small streams. A little less than half (46%) have been assessed as to their water quality and many of those that have been assessed (106,398 miles) have been determined to be impaired and do not meet water quality standards. Usually the impairments are for excessively hot water (bad for trout and salmon), excessive sedimentation (bad for all living creatures), depressed dissolved oxygen levels (deadly in some instances), and, for coastal waters, toxins.

Beavers are a no cost solution for improving water quality. By building dams and enlarging floodplains, beavers slow down running water during excessive rains and they allow sediments to settle out and descend to the bottom of the rivers and streams and not stay suspended in water. This provides for better water quality and clarity and helps all water dependent creatures. Beavers do us a great service at no cost.

This bill is a win/win. It only applies to public lands and does not apply to private land. We should take advantage of beavers doing their thing in the environment.

Sincerely, Christine Psyk