

Submitter: lynn handlin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Beavers create, expand and restore wetlands. They make our state more fire resilient. They help improve water quality in our streams, ponds, lakes and rivers. They improve habitat for a wide variety of wildlife including sensitive and threatened species like the Willow Flycatcher, and sensitive species like one of my favorite singers the Red Legged Frog, and so many more. Beaver activity improves water quality for salmon habitat.

This bill would close beaver hunting and trapping in waterways on public lands that the DEQ has classified as “impaired” so they (the beavers!) can help improve water quality and restore habitat. Over 2/3 of waterways in Oregon are considered impaired. This bill is not expensive and will in fact save the government money in the short term by “hiring” beavers to do required remediation work in many watersheds that are in poor shape. The long term benefits are huge. These critters are great at fighting climate change by creating, expanding and restoring healthy wetlands, which can sequester more carbon than trees. They create and restore habitat for a wild variety of wildlife. Beavers are considered a keystone species. Please pass this modest bill to protect beavers on public lands.