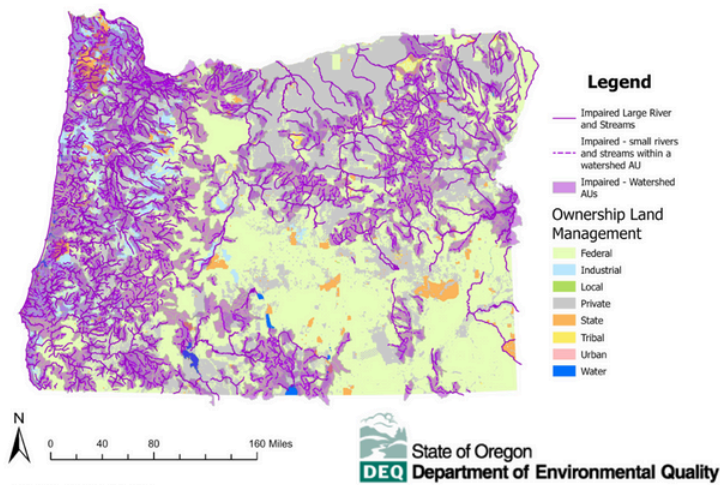


HB 3932: Improving Oregon's Water Quality Using Beaver: Natural Ecosystem Solutions

THE PROBLEM: Most of Oregon's waterways struggle with water quality issues, with many deemed "impaired" by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

- There are 310,464 miles of big rivers and small streams in Oregon, of which only 46% have been assessed for water quality data and 106,390 miles have been deemed impaired (Category 4 and 5 of DEQ's water quality classification).
- To restore impaired waterways, DEQ needs to be develop TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load assessments) for each waterway. But TMDLs are expensive, and DEQ lacks resources to develop and implement a TMDL for every stream and watershed that needs one. As a result, most streams continue to stay impaired in Oregon.

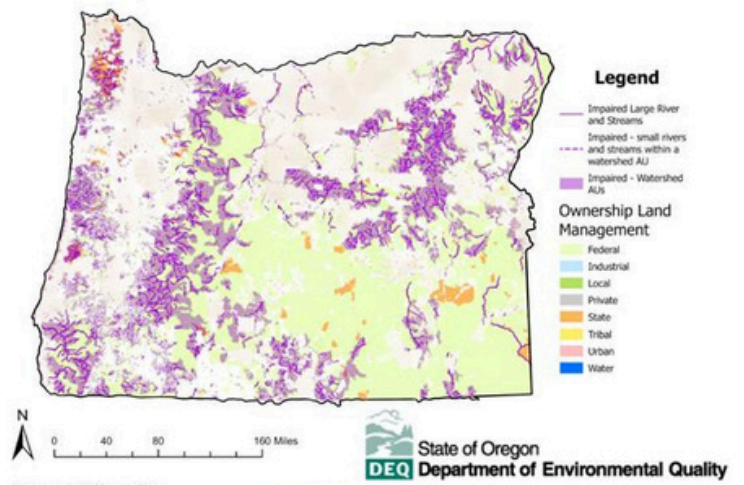
Impaired Waters in the Entire State



WHY BEAVERS? One of the most important ecosystem services that beavers provide is in addressing water quality issues.

- Based on the DEQ's current data, the primary factors for a waterway to be deemed impaired are: high water temperature, sedimentation, dissolved oxygen level, bio-criteria (health of invertebrates and shellfish) toxins (along the coast).
- Scientific research and literature has shown that beaver dam complexes and floodplains help to address four of these top five factors - they are nature's solution, and they tackle these issues free of charge.

Impaired Waters on State and Federal Lands



WHAT DOES HB 3932 DO?

- It proposes beaver hunting and trapping closure in waterways on public lands the DEQ classifies as impaired so they can provide the ecosystem services and improve water quality.
- The bill does not apply to private lands.
- The bill provides an off-ramp from these regulations - if a stream is removed from DEQ's category 4 or 5 for six consecutive years, ODFW Commission can change regulations and open hunting/trapping on that particular stream to the hunting and trapping of beavers.
- It allows for take of beaver on public lands in instances of damage caused by beavers on adjacent private lands.

CURRENT BEAVER HARVEST ON PUBLIC LANDS

- ODFW's 2024 data shows state and federal public lands combined accounted for only 4% of reported beaver harvest.
- This bill is NOT about limiting beaver harvest and increasing beaver population. Instead, this bill would enable beavers to access waterways where they need to be and remain long enough to perform their ecosystem functions without getting trapped out.
- Less beaver harvest reported on public lands is likely due to low beaver presence on public lands.

Supporters of HB 3932

