

Submitter: Erin Kilpatrick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Beavers are incredibly effective at improving water quality. HB 3932 would temporarily close beaver trapping where they are needed most: on rivers and streams that are contending with elevated water temperatures and high levels of sedimentation, toxins or other pollutants.

Beavers are Oregon's state animal. They are critical to climate resilience. When they build their dams, beavers slow down the movement of water in river systems, cooling and cleaning them.

We nearly wiped out beavers. However, in recent times their populations have bounced back to sustainable levels, thanks to the work of tribal, state and federal governments, land managers, and conservation groups doing important restoration projects.

I am a member of ONDA, one of these organizations invested in our beavers' future. ONDA volunteers replant native trees on heavily grazed river corridors and install wooden structures to lure beavers back to Oregon's high desert, where I live. They've had success on the John Day, where beaver dams can hold water on parched landscapes, provide firebreaks, provide a refuge for wildlife and livestock, and in the event of a wildfire, a source of plant materials to recolonize and stabilize surrounding lands.

Support these efforts in restoring our landscapes, wildlife, and making Central Oregon more climate resilient. Thank you, Erin Kilpatrick