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

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.

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.

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.

This bill 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.

This is a common sense bill that benefits both beavers and our waterways without sacrificing trapping on private lands or beaver's natural dam process on public lands and is an economical way to improve Oregon's water systems. It is a win-win! Please vote yes on HB 3932!