

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

Hi, I would really appreciate seeing this legislation to help beavers spread back into the wild on public lands where they have been absent for far too long. The presence of beavers will go a long way to help restore many damaged streams and they do the work for free.

HB 3932 targets rivers and streams categorized by DEQ as impaired waterways. More than 106,390 miles in Oregon are currently classified as “impaired”.

The bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are already deemed impaired by DEQ. There is robust scientific evidence that shows beaver dam complexes can address many water quality issues such as temperature, sedimentation, and low levels of dissolved oxygen.

ODFW’s 2023 data showed that only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing their populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.

Thanks!