

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

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3932 to protect beavers from hunting and trapping in streams with water quality problems on public lands.

I am Judith K. (Judy) Berg, a retired wildlife researcher. I conducted a project on river otters and beavers on the Colorado River in Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding watersheds during the 1990s. I made many discoveries, including that beavers recycle materials from old dams to build new ones. From my work emerged the book "Conversation with a Beaver (<https://otterspirit.org/beaver.asp>)," which narrates the life history of a beaver patriarch and his family.

Important to this letter is that I, along with researchers throughout the country, continue to make discoveries into the complexity of the many contributions of this one mammalian species to the existence of Planet Earth. Beavers are the ecosystem engineers of the natural world. Through complex science, these animals provide habitat for many species: plants, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and fish. Speaking of fish, results from research conducted in Oregon, Alaska and British Columbia show that juvenile salmon have higher survival rates in streams with beaver ponds. It has been shown conclusively that Beaver-excavated streams serve as firebreaks during wildfires.

Beavers should be revered for their contribution to sustainable ecosystems. Maybe that is the reason they were chosen to be Oregon's state animal. Please enact this legislation to protect their legacy by passing HB 3932.

Respectfully yours,

Judith K. Berg, Eugene, OR