

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

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and respected Committee Members

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB 3932. Based on DEQ data the primary factors causing impairment to water quality for non-coastal waters are high water temperature, sedimentation, dissolved oxygen level, and the presence of toxins and other pollutants impacting biodiversity. Scientific research and literature show that beaver dam complexes and floodplains help address these issues. They are nature's solution to create a thriving ecosystem improving habitat quality for fish and many other wildlife species. Additionally, unlike manmade structures, they are maintained over the years, through floods and other challenges, by the beavers, free of charge. By creating wetlands that hold moisture in the landscape they also make these public lands more resistant to wildfire.

My volunteer work with Oregon Natural Desert Association ("ONDA") has allowed me to witness firsthand how volunteers can restore beaver habitat where it has been removed in areas like the South Fork Crooked River, and how successfully the beavers return to their natural environment, with consequent notable improvement in water quality and flood plain stability.

This is a commonsense measure that respects the rights of local farmers and ranchers as it does not extend to private land and allows for the take of beavers on public lands in instances of damage caused to adjacent private land.

Please support HB 3932.