



Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and members of the Committee,

Bark, along with thousands of our supporters, strongly urge you to support the passage of the “Beaver and Water Quality Bill” HB 3932. Bark’s mission is to transform Mt. Hood National Forest into a place where natural processes prevail, where wildlife thrives and where local communities have a social, cultural, and economic investment in its restoration and preservation. This bill would support all aspects of our mission, ensuring not only healthy waterways but increased and improved water resources for communities.

Rigorous and peer-reviewed scientific studies have proven repeatedly that beavers create wetlands and complex riparian areas needed for crucial, water-based ecosystems services. These services include all of the DEQ’s top five factors that lead to an “impaired” classification- high stream temperature, dissolved oxygen, sedimentation, bio-criteria (health of invertebrates) and shellfish toxins. Additionally, beavers would improve many other aspects of the ecosystem less directly related to the DEQ’s stream impairment assessment including wildfire protection and mitigation, increased biodiversity and aquifer replenishment.

ODFW’s 2024 data shows state and federal public lands combined accounted for only 4% of reported beaver harvest whereas the majority of beaver trapping occurs on private lands. Therefore, passage of this bill would do little to negatively affect beaver trappers or local economies. Protecting beavers in key watersheds would allow them to do the amazing work that they naturally do, improving ecosystems for animals and humans alike.

Please support HB 3932 and all the good it would do for humans and the natural world.

Thank you,  
Meg Waller  
Restoration Program Manager, Bark