



May 5, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 3932

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3932. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is an Oregon non-profit, public interest organization of about 950 members with offices in Bend. LandWatch’s mission is to defend and plan for Central Oregon’s livable future, and it has advocated for the preservation of natural resources in Central Oregon for over 35 years.

LandWatch supports HB 3932. As our communities confront the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, it is imperative that we update and strengthen our management frameworks to better incorporate nature-based solutions that restore and preserve ecosystem functions and processes.

The United Nations Convention on Biodiversity has defined ecological restoration as:

the process of managing or assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed as a means of sustaining ecosystem resilience and conserving biodiversity. Degradation is characterized by a decline or loss of biodiversity or ecosystem functions. Degradation and restoration are context-specific and refer to both the state of ecosystems and to ecosystem processes.¹

Oregon’s water quality is a pressing environmental concern. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has surveyed only 46% of our waterways, and of those surveyed, nearly two-thirds are classified as “impaired.” This designation is based on federal recommendations from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act.

Beavers are a keystone species that play a critical role in scaling ecological restoration efforts. Their ability to create and restore wetland and riparian ecosystems supports fish and wildlife by reconnecting floodplains, capturing sediment, and filtering water. In turn, beavers benefit human communities by improving water quality, mitigating flood risk, and stabilizing water quantity in the face of ongoing drought and climate change impacts.

¹ [Ecosystem restoration: short-term action plan \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/restoration/short-term-action-plan)





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House Bill 3932 represents a practical and necessary step forward for Oregon's waterways. By prohibiting the trapping of beavers on public lands adjacent to waterways that are classified as impaired by DEQ, this bill will enhance our ability to address water quality concerns and advance ecological restoration efforts on public lands.

Thank you for considering these comments. LandWatch supports HB 3932.

Sincerely,

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We defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future