

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

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, Committee Members:

We all recognize that Oregon along with other Western states is experiencing a cycle of recurrent droughts interspersed with recurrent floods of unprecedented severity. The Global Commission on the Economics of Water recently stated, "We now face the prospect of a 40% shortfall in freshwater supply by 2030, with severe shortages in water-constrained regions." Almost half of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality.

For eons, beaver have developed and maintained a complex system of ponds, channels, wetlands, and riparian zones that defined much of the water geography of the West. This system checked floods, controlled the timed release of water in streams, rivers and watersheds, ensured water retention in ponds and wetlands, and guaranteed water temperatures and food supplies in riparian zones that support rich biodiversity and fish habitat.

Most of this system has been destroyed over the last 200 years and the beaver population is today a small fraction of its former size. Wildlife and fish populations are in ever more dire condition. Humans are suffering great loss from drought and flood. Since we are in a water emergency of global proportion, it seems desirable to encourage restoration of beaver on the land and the consequent redevelopment of the ancient and efficient (and cost-free) hydraulic dynamic they created.

HB 3932 will ban beaver hunting and trapping on watersheds classified as impaired by the DEQ, thereby allowing beaver to get a start at their job of repairing and enhancing these riparian zones and improving Oregon's water security - at no cost to the taxpayer.

Please support HB 3932.

Thank you.