

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

Please support HB 3932 so we can allow beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterways for free. HB 3932 targets rivers and streams categorized as Category 4 or 5 by DEQ's water quality standards - both indicate impaired waterways. This also includes waterways deemed impaired under the Clean Water Act. More than 2/3rd of surveyed waterways in Oregon (106,390 miles) are currently classified as "impaired."

Furthermore, HB 3932 proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands deemed impaired by DEQ. Robust scientific evidence shows that beaver dam complexes can address most water quality issues. And they do it for FREE! Beavers are ecosystem engineers. Their activities, such as canal-digging and dam-building, help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that filter toxins, and simultaneously create wildlife and fish habitats. Let's work cooperatively with the wildlife, as much a treasure as our waterways and wetlands.

About half of Oregon's streams and rivers suffer from poor water quality ~ over 100,000 miles of waterways! The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways. Let's use a resource we DO have, our natural wildlife to help us make life better for all living here.

Passing HB 3932 would close beaver hunting and trapping on IMPAIRED waterways only. Use the resources and the science which shows beaver dam complexes can address concerning water quality issues. Please enable the beavers to live unharassed in areas of the waterways where they need to be, and let them do what the Creator created them for, among other things, for the betterment of all.

Please pass this bill. It is right for Oregon.

Respectfully,
Jane Wille