



**THINK  
WILD**



**BEAVER  
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May 6, 2025

Dear Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire,

My name is Sally Compton, and I'm the Executive Director of Think Wild, a wildlife hospital and conservation nonprofit based in Bend. I'm writing in strong support of HB 3932.

Through our Beaver Works Oregon program, we work with landowners across rural counties—Jefferson, Crook, Klamath, Harney, Malheur, and beyond—to restore riparian habitat and support beaver recovery. When conflicts arise, we implement proven, non-lethal solutions like flow devices and culvert protection.



HB 3932 ensures that beavers can perform their ecological functions—like storing water, improving water quality, and stabilizing streambanks—where they're most needed: on impaired public waterways. The bill supports a science-informed approach that complements ODFW's current practices and aligns with Oregon's water quality and climate resilience goals.

The reality is: millions of dollars are currently being invested—by Oregon and federal agencies—in beaver-based restoration on both public and private lands. At Collier Memorial State Park, for example, Think Wild is leading a multi-year beaver habitat restoration project near several impaired waterways, due to wildfire damage. The goal is that through restoration, beavers - once common in the park before the fires - will return and bring the ecosystem benefits with them. But those investments—and many others across the state—are undermined when the few remaining beavers in or near these sites are trapped or killed.



We cannot afford to spend taxpayer money building habitat for a species we're also removing—possibly from the very locations we're trying to restore.



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I also want to briefly address a couple concerns:

First, this bill does not ban trapping. It simply limits beaver trapping on impaired streams on public lands. Trapping is still allowed on private land and where beavers cause damage to adjacent private property. And, there is also growing demand for non-lethal solutions that wildlife control operators can implement - like flow devices, culvert fencing, and exclusion. These are affordable and more effective long term solutions, since we know from our work on the ground, that lethal beaver removal is not a lasting solution. Beavers either return, or the habitat degrades.

This is not a rural vs urban issue. We work in some of the most rural parts of the state, and when we first started Beaver Works, we were surprised by the demand for beavers. Many ranchers, farmers and landowners call us not to remove beavers—but to ask how they can *attract them* to help restore annual streamflows.

HB 3932 is a thoughtful, targeted policy that protects public investments, improves water quality, and strengthens Oregon's ability to adapt to drought and wildfire. We urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Sally Compton*

Sally Compton

Executive Director, Think Wild

