



Testimony in Support of HB 3932 – Beaver & Water Quality Bill

May 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR

Dear Chair Golden and members of the committee,

My name is Frances Oyung, I am the Rogue Riverkeeper Program Manager for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center based in Ashland Oregon. Approximately 10,000 members and supporters stand with us as we urge your support of HB 3932.

About 60 percent of the Rogue basin is publicly owned. Many Rogue basin streams are designated by the DEQ as water quality impaired for multiple parameters including temperature, bacteria, nutrients, and more. The Rogue basin supports native and threatened fish as well as supplying municipal, domestic, and agricultural water users.

HB 3932 proposes closing trapping of beavers only on public lands with streams classified as impaired by DEQ. DEQ updates the list every two years as required by the Clean Water Act so the list is based on current data. HB 3932 builds a connection between two important natural resource agencies that otherwise would not have come together. DEQ does not manage or monitor beavers and ODFW's mandate does not include addressing water quality yet these two issues are entwined.

96% of beaver trapping is taking place on private lands and HB 3932 does not touch private lands. The 4% of beaver trapping on public lands is indicative of the limited number of beavers

on our degraded public lands and we seek to retain the individuals there. When the numbers of a keystone species like beaver on a landscape are small, any removal of an individual will have an ecological impact on the specific animal's location. That's why HB 3932 is so narrowly focused on closing only the areas where beavers are needed the most: water quality impaired public lands.

Most of the Rogue basin streams are a long way from having "too many" beavers. If they can find their way, beavers can populate areas that have diverse land use from agricultural to urban. Following the Alameda Fire of 2020, there were multiple beaver dams in place in the urbanized Bear Creek watershed (a tributary of the Rogue River) by the first summer after the fire. Beaver will occupy even poor habitat and do their work to improve the water holding and filtering capacity of the landscape to benefit entire ecosystems.

We can work simultaneously both to prevent harm and allow beavers to do work to address the impacts of water quality degradation. KS Wild strongly urges the committee to support HB 3932. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frances Oyung
Program Manager
Rogue Riverkeeper