

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

To the chair and members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

My name is Jon Enyart, and I am writing today in strong support of HB 3932, a bill that reflects both sound science and common sense by protecting beavers on public lands where their ecological role is essential and irreplaceable.

Beavers are keystone species—ecosystem engineers whose natural behaviors provide profound benefits for water quality, groundwater recharge, biodiversity, and wildfire mitigation. In Central Oregon, where our communities face increasing threats from drought and wildfire, we need every available tool to restore and protect our riparian ecosystems. Supporting beaver presence on impaired waterways is a no-cost, low-tech solution with high return.

Beaver dams naturally slow water, allowing sediments and pollutants to settle, reducing erosion, and enhancing water storage in dry landscapes. These processes directly improve conditions in streams that are currently listed as impaired by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality—over 100,000 miles of them statewide. Restoring beavers to these systems is not just good for fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals—it's good for people, too.

Importantly, HB 3932 is a focused, measured step. It does not affect private landowners, nor does it broadly ban trapping. Instead, it closes commercial and recreational beaver trapping only on public lands where we need beavers the most. According to ODFW, just 4% of beaver harvest happens in these areas, making this bill a strategic policy that aligns with both ecological and community priorities.

As someone who works closely with injured and orphaned wildlife, I have seen firsthand the ripple effects of habitat degradation. Protecting and encouraging beavers where they are most needed helps prevent those injuries in the first place, by making our natural systems more resilient and self-sustaining.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 3932 and allow Oregon's beavers to continue their vital work for our land, water, and communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jon Enyart, DVM