

I'm writing in support of sensible management of beaver on Oregon's public and private lands. I have an MS in Watershed Management and have studied the effects of beavers on stream flooding, erosion, and riparian health. Beavers provide important environmental services: they enhance water quality for people and wildlife and greatly enhance stream habitat for many critical species. Beaver activities reduce stream erosion and stabilize stream banks. Ponds and wetlands created by beavers promote healthy riparian plant growth and provide complex habitat for aquatic and terrestrial animal species. The bill removes the "predatory animal status" for beaver, which allows wildlife experts at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon as it does for the vast majority of wildlife in Oregon, including deer, elk, black bear, wolves, raccoons, fish, and others. The bill does not remove any tools from the toolbox for landowners in Oregon, as lethal removal of beaver is still an option. Increasing the presence of beaver on our public lands is a very cost-effective way to protect and restore our natural resources and improve our quality of life.