

March 15, 2023

To whom it may concern,  
HB 3464: Oregon State Legislature

HB 3464, that would make an incremental step toward less bureaucratic confusion and better beaver management. This bill would be beneficial for all Oregonians especially for beaver and those that assist in creating a coexistence between humans and beavers and their habitat.

I would like to explain the situation and my experience with beavers. My family has owned 60 acres in Washington County for many decades. We have grown crops such as wheat, fescue, hay, clover on the prime soils that exist. The land is flat and a creek runs through the middle of the property and in parts there is always some natural flooding which dries up in the spring. We had been aware of beavers in the area and on other properties but never had any problems. In 2017, major problems started at the creek and there was major flooding over several acres of property making those acres unusable and killing the crop. We still had not found a solution into the summer and the standing water because of the soon to be discovered beaver dam was a large mosquito breeding ground and bad smelling water. The beaver also wiped out all of the trees along the river and a large stand of poplar trees. After discovering a beaver dam through the help groups like the Tualatin Soil Water and Conservation District. We did not necessarily want to kill the beavers and other farmers that had long trapped never seemed to get rid of them and was a constant trouble and the flooding continued. Farmers had also developed their own boring equipment to destroy the dams but beavers being busy creatures soon rebuilt and everyone was back to square one. We were not sure what to do and no easy solution had been suggested until we met Jakob Shockey of Beaver State Wildlife Solutions, who had a brilliant solution where beavers and humans could co-exist. In the development of the beaver deceiver, we cleared the dam and placed in the problem area the deceiver with large pipe and cattle panel fencing. We also had to work in conjunction with the land owner next to us that shared the creek where the beaver dam was technically on his property but the flooding was occurring on our side. The land has been restored and farmable, the beavers are still on the property and everyone exists together. Please see the pictures of the flooding before and after the beaver deceiver.

In short, beavers can be highly destructive creatures and cause incredible damage and literally change the existing environment. However, beavers are also an amazing creature that have a long history in the state and deserve their place. Given they were almost extinct by the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it is imperative that farmers and beavers learn to co-exist. Beavers provide many qualities that agencies are now looking towards in the efforts to fight climate change but also habitat restoration. The article in the *New York Times*, "[It Was War. Then, a Rancher's Truce With Some Pesky Beavers Paid Off.](#)" published in September 2022 demonstrates the issues but also the benefits of beavers and how everyone can work together. Beavers can help in wildfires, native fish, ponding water in drought regions, providing shade, develop meadows and wetlands, and provide eco systems for all different wildlife. Every major wildlife group is supporting HB 3464 and I would urge the legislature to adopt the bill and stride to work for the preservation of nature yet allow people to use and farm the land to the highest capability.

Andy Haugen

Photos of flooding on property due to beaver dam





Photos of destruction post beaver dam





Beaver Deceiver at Work below





Same area of property today that had been flooded in previous pictures and now back in production



