

Submitter: Lyn Larson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

This bill is so important! To label beavers predators is such a misnomer. The wildfires we're experiencing have shown very clearly that beaver provide an important function in providing wetlands that don't burn. Their dams spread water over the land surface, thereby preventing erosion and allowing water to percolate into the ground. These areas provide rich habitat for many species. Long-term studies have shown the stark difference beaver activity can make on the landscape, in a positive direction. As for problems humans have with them, again, long-term studies have produced various proven workarounds that don't require killing these animals, which by the way are a KEYSTONE SPECIES, critical for a healthy landscape.

This is a rational bill that will establish some parameters for dealing with beaver that don't necessarily preclude killing them, but that option would be a last resort. It would also require a landowner to report a killing to ODFW. Currently it's the wild west out there and no one even knows the mortality rate. If it hasn't become apparent yet, I don't know what it will take to make us realize that working with nature is of far greater benefit to us than acting as if it's still 1850 and we have to "conquer" everything. At the rate we're going there soon won't be anything left to conquer (wolves, polar bears, beaver...)

Please pass this bill.

Thank you in advance.