

Submitter: Jason Strauss

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

Jason Strauss
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March 15, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Chair Representative Marsh

RE: House bill 3464
Chair Representative Marsh, members of the Committee

Living with beavers

Ten years ago I bought a home with 16 acres on the Applegate river. I have approximately 1600 ft of river frontage most of which was inaccessible due to invasive blackberries. I started removing them myself cutting the canes and removing the root balls as well as the regrowth that inevitably occurs for several years. I finally have most of the canes removed and the trees and saplings that were dying and being pulled down, are now flourishing. Lots of alder, willow, cottonwood and oak. As I removed the canes and the saplings started to grow, I noticed lots of beaver "chew" where there was none before. The canes had been so thick that the beavers could not penetrate the shoreline and they had little food anyway. Willow grow very quickly, far outpacing the ability of beavers to eat them all. They are nocturnal so I rarely see them but just knowing they are there, seeing their trails to access those tasty saplings gives me great pleasure. I have planted many fruit trees and other native saplings close to the river's edge and to keep the beavers from destroying them I simply surround them with some wire mesh. I am doing my part to help reestablish beavers on the landscape and flourish as the keystone species that they are. In a time of drought, I feel it is the least I can do.

As a landowner who has learned to live with beavers, I support House Bill 3446 primarily because it will influence ODFW to educate people and mitigate beaver conflicts in lieu of eradication and extermination.

Sincerely,
Jason Strauss