

Submitter: Jon Gottshall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

I support the removal of beavers from the predator listing with the state ODFW. Beavers are not hunters by nature. What they DO by nature is provide habitat for many other species, especially ones that depend on wetlands to survive and reproduce. The west that was explored and settled during the 19th Century was already desiccated by the removal of beaver in the European fur trade. The west, prior to the fur trade, had ample numbers of beaver that raised the water table and keep many high desert valleys green well into summer. The fur trade wiped them out, so we had little evidence left of how the western landscape was kept wetter by their presence.

Removing the false label of "predator" makes sense in so many ways, allowing ODFW to then properly manage beavers in an environmentally responsible manner.