

I am writing as a landowner in support of HB 3464 to remove the “predatory” designation of beaver in the state. We own 200 acres of timber land in Lincoln County and 32 acres in Lane County. The Lincoln County land has a creek and pond which is protected from development. We know that beaver have lived here in the past and, frankly, would be happy for their return. Similarly, the Lane County property shows evidence of prior beaver occupancy, and the former pond is now defunct without beaver activity. Our experience with beavers has been quite positive. The beaver help to create a diversity of trees and habitat in the riparian area which is supportive of several different kinds of plants and wildlife. The beaver pond helps to store water and release it slowly. The wetland area reduces wildfire danger in the vicinity. We also have concerns about climate change and drought negatively impacting this forestland and know that beavers can be helpful in decreasing these impacts.

We have no concerns at all about engaging in practices to remove beaver should problems arise. ODFW already has a permit issuing process in place for other furbearers.

Our downstream neighbors have a pond in their backyard that they greatly value. It would likely run dry without the slow release of water due to beaver activity. Yet, their knowledge of beavers is based on old and erroneous information that may very well be due to the current designation of beaver as predators. We welcome the opportunity for education about the beneficial aspects of beaver activity as well as how to co-exist with beavers. We believe better management will result from this opportunity to monitor beavers in Oregon.

Please support HB 3464. Thank you for your consideration.