

Submitter: Greg Peek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB3464

I have personally observed how the presence of beavers can positively affect an ecosystem.

I am fortunate to live a few blocks from a green-way that has been transformed by the arrival of a pair of beavers. What was just a tiny, muddy, seasonal stream carrying rain runoff down the center of a greenway in the winter and spring, has been transformed by this industrious rodent's dam into a year round pond, with only positive effects on the area.

Thanks to the beaver's economical use of a few branches and reeds, there is now a year-round pond which has been populated with aquatic plants that provide food for local wildlife.

Their pond is used seasonally by at least two pairs of migratory ducks to safely raise their families in the spring and summer. The beavers also raised three kits of their own last year.

The pond captures rain runoff, slowing erosion on the banks of the ditch/stream below the dam. In last year's devastating drought, the pond shrank, but never disappeared, providing an important source of water for birds, deer, and other wildlife in the area.

Beavers are not "predatory animals" and should not be classified as such. Beavers that are not welcome in an area should be relocated by the ODFW to locations where they can help mitigate the effects of droughts with their ponds. Large arrays of beaver ponds could also help in containing the spread of wildfires, reducing property damage and loss of forest acreage.

I submit this testimony in support of HB 3464 to protect Oregon's official state animal, the beaver.