

HB 3464

House Climate Energy and Environment

Good afternoon,

Thank you Chair Marsh and Representative Osborne for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. I am Charley Moyer. I am a forester with over 25 years of experience working in Western Oregon and Washington primarily on reforestation, establishing and growing forests. I am here today as a private concerned citizen. I reside in House District 2 in Roseburg. In my role as a forester I have been involved with animal damage control protecting our resources and infrastructure. I am opposed to removing the predator designation for beavers. Damage caused by beavers needs to be addressed quickly, without delay. Although beavers might be someone's idea of a keystone species and a symbol for climate restoration their damage can be severe and their impacts felt by thousands. Beavers cause damage to culverts, bridges and municipal water systems as well as damage to our timberlands. Beavers damage trees by cutting them down and using them for their dams and the backed up water kills trees by flooding. There are areas where beavers and human land uses are mutually exclusive, not compatible with other uses. I don't want a beaver population to become established in one of the municipal watersheds that provide water to our communities.

I have been involved in two incidents where beavers caused to damage to the municipal water systems for the City of Tillamook and the community of Neskowin. In both cases beavers were sending loads of sediment, sticks and debris and coliform bacteria into these municipal water intakes. The water system managers called me to complain and I had to point the finger at the beaver. I spent the time to take the Neskowin water plant manager up into the woods to see the headwaters of his watershed that was fully occupied by beaver dams. This is a great example of mutually exclusive activities.

Another incident occurred when I worked up in Columbia County where a beaver decided to block a stream passage culvert for a forest road. The beaver pond backed up the water after a winter storm and this resulted in a road failure which sent hundreds of yards of debris down the stream. In that case I actually had to fight the Oregon Department of Forestry who wanted to issue me a citation for failing to maintain our road system.

Beavers are predators and rodents and the current definitions should remain unchanged. I opposed HB 3464.

Thank you,

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