



The Conservation Angler supports HB 3464

The inclusion of beavers in the list of “predatory” animals is an egregious abuse of wildlife management and a remnant of old thinking.

The current management regime for beavers – Oregon State Animal - not only does not make sense from a scientific or a good wildlife management perspective – the current regime deprives Oregonians of the many benefits of healthy, thriving populations of beavers on the landscape. Beavers are a keystone species and are our natural allies in the fight to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Beaver-modified habitat enhances fire resiliency and creates climate refugia for other species. Beavers also improve water security, sequesters carbon, and creates healthy habitat for salmon. Including beavers in the list of predatory animals means that they can be killed with little to no regulation or monitoring in Oregon – the Beaver State.

Beavers are our ally in the effort to restore and protect and maintain salmonid habitat. Oregon needs to let them do this work in the manner that they will do – by instinctual habit and necessity.

The Conservation Angler applauds and supports the sponsors of HB 3464 for recognizing the critical ecological and landscape resilience value of beaver, recategorizing beaver from predator to fur-bearer, creating a permit system to seek to understand and track activities on and by beaver, and encouraging private landowners to live with and benefit from beavers.

We advise that the Committee members be certain to read the testimony submitted by Suzanne Fouty – her expertise and depth of knowledge is unsurpassed and should be required reading. Here is the link to her submission:

[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/68131](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/68131)

Please support HB 3464 as an important step toward reforming our state’s problematic predatory animal statute.

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