

I am writing in support of Bill HB 3464. Beaver-built ponds, wetlands, and wet meadows hold water in storage and slowly release it, helping to offset declines in stream flows and water quality related to declining snowpack and spring melt. Beaver activity helps ease climate induced drought, such as the recent persistent drought we have experienced in southwest Oregon. Beavers create and maintain wetlands, wet meadows, and ponds, which are natural fire breaks. These areas provide refuge for livestock and wildlife during fires, and this habitat is critical to helping wildlife survive the winter. Because vegetation remains, these areas trap soil eroding from surrounding hillsides post-wildfire and prevent it from reaching streams which protects water quality. Beavers create habitat that improves the function and diversity of the biological and physical systems native fish need to thrive. Please do the right thing and protect these animals who do so much to protect us.

Thank you

Bronwen Evans