



WaterWatch of Oregon

Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers

HB 3464A
Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon
by Kimberley Priestley
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
May 1, 2023

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers and aquifers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation, and other public uses of Oregon's waters. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports HB 3464A

HB 3464A would remove beavers from Oregon's "predatory" animal classification as well as give ODFW more control over how beavers are managed on private lands.

Beavers provide great benefit to Oregon's environment, including but not limited to providing ecological uplift to streamflows, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat connectivity, water quality, floodplain restoration and wetland health. The temporary storing of water in ponds and aquifers also helps mitigate the effects of drought and temper downstream flooding, both of which are critically important in helping Oregon address the impacts of climate change.

We urge the Committee to support HB 3464A.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

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