



Senate Natural Resources Committee

May 10, 2023

**David A. Moskowitz**

**The Conservation Angler supports HB 3464**

Beavers are one of Oregon's many Treasures. Indeed, they have been trapped since the time John Day passed through the to-be-named John Day River in the fertile and broad valley upstream of Picture Gorge – a valley full of cottonwood galleries, willows, Beavers – and the other Oregon Treasure – wild salmon and steelhead.

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

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 institute a “pause” before unnecessary removal - and seeks to understand and track activities by our beaver, and encourages private landowners to live with and benefit from beavers. Beavers belong to – and benefit - all Oregonians and should be managed in that manner.

We advise the Committee members to read the testimony submitted by Dr. Suzanne Fouty – her expertise and depth of knowledge is unsurpassed and is truly required reading.

Please support HB 3464 as a critical and important step forward to bringing Oregon's Beaver management to a sensible place where its treasured habits will create treasure and value statewide in the age of unprecedented climate change volatility. Oregon's State Animal creates our most cost-effective and time-honored bulwarks against wildfire and water quality degradation.

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