



Williams Creek Watershed Council
Williams, OR 97544

Oregon Legislative Body

Feb. 5,2024

We represent the Williams Creek Watershed Council and a collection of landowners and property managers along Williams Creek, its many tributaries, and the Applegate River, which supports beaver habitat and presence in our streams. Our beaver habitat has been historically well known and the population of beavers is large and diverse. Only a minimal population remains within our ecosystem, and we protect the beaver sites when possible. We support improvements within the beaver presence in Oregon and the HB 4014 would be vital to positive movement towards protecting existing populations and preparing new beaver homesites throughout the watershed.

Our work includes instream habitat improvements along all streams in the Williams and Applegate Valleys for salmon and other aquatic wildlife and the addition of beavers to the landscape makes those improvements work better and support greater numbers of aquatic native species. If there were funding to support these efforts that could make this work advance forward. Protecting beavers, beaver landscapes, colony dispersal, dam building and pond development are aspects we support within our watersheds.

Please consider supporting passing this legislation and help improve the conditions for beavers throughout the state. Oregon is the beaver state and could use the continued presence to support this keystone species for the future of wildlife within our watersheds.

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