



The Conservation Angler Supports HB 4014

The Conservation Angler is a wild fish and rivers advocacy organization supporting policies and funding that provide effective and cost-conscious restoration assistance and ultimately resilient ecosystem processes for wild salmon and steelhead whose return to natal waters supports over 130 other species.

What is it?

The Landowners Living with Beaver Grant Program Fund will be within the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) through the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund (OCRF) to provide funding that supports beaver coexistence strategies for private landowners. The Fund is aimed at mitigation and coexistence tools for private landowners with an allowance for building skills and capacity in providing technical assistance meant for landowners who have been living with beavers or have new beavers on their property. The funds will be administered through the OCRF under ODFW as block grants. Eligible entities include soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and conservation non-profits.

Why?

Beavers are nature's habitat builders and restorers. Their natural behavior creates, restores, and maintains habitats that support a wide array of plants, animals, and birds – as well as native fish! Beavers help to recharge groundwater, enhance fire resiliency, create climate refugia for other species, improve water quality and support healthy habitat for salmon.

How does HB 4014 Fit?

Oregon has been leading on beaver management reform and ODFW, with help from stakeholders, developed a 3-year Beaver Action Plan in 2023, which aims to advance restoration of beaver habitats and includes private lands. Yet there have been no funds allocated for this purpose.

In 2023, the legislature passed HB 3464, which removed the predatory animal status of beavers and shifted management on private lands from the Dept. of Agriculture to ODFW. This opened an opportunity to provide an alternative to beaver extermination. Landowners now need resources to shift historical management practices.

With HB 4014, private landowners and managers will benefit from financial assistance made available to protect beaver habitats and advance the Plan's goals. OCRF may award block grant funds up to \$50K to eligible applicants for the purpose of implementing beaver mitigation projects on private land. Grant funds may be used for non-lethal mitigation tools such as tree protection tools, flood prevention devices, culvert and infrastructure protection systems, crop protection strategies, and landowner education and outreach. A portion of the funds may be used to develop technical skills and to build statewide capacity for providing technical assistance. Again, the primary focus of the Fund is meant to support landowners who have been living with beavers or have new beavers on their property – TCA feels that this legislation is a strong step in fostering coexistence between landowners and beavers, ultimately contributing to the ecological well-being of watersheds throughout Oregon.

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