

Submitter: Allison Everitt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Beaver's engineering skills create dam complexes and floodplains with the capacity to address four of the top five factors in waterway health...and they do it all pro bono.

It's time to embrace their restoration skills more than ever by passing HB3932, which proposes closing beaver hunting and trapping in impaired waterways on public lands. By protecting these critical zones, HB3932 provides beaver populations with the time and space to improve water quality on public lands without getting trapped out.

This bill would not impact hunting or trapping on private lands, which account for 96% of reported beaver harvest.

HB3932 offers a smart, low-cost solution for Oregon's communities and impaired waterways by helping beavers thrive.

HB 3932 targets rivers and streams designated as category 4 or category 5 by DEQ's water quality standards. Both indicate impaired waterways. The bill also includes waterways deemed impaired under the Clean Water Act

DEQ deems waters impaired based on certain criteria such as high temperature, sedimentation, and level of dissolved oxygen, to name a few.

The bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on waterways on public lands that are deemed impaired by DEQ. Strong scientific evidence suggests beaver dam complexes can address most of these water quality issues.

ODFW's 2023 data showed only 4% of beaver harvest is taking place on public lands. This is NOT about banning trapping or increasing their populations; rather it is about allowing beavers to disperse to public lands and stay there long enough to perform their ecological functions without getting trapped out.

Please pass this common sense legislation. Thank you for time.

-Allison Everitt