

Submitter: Kathleen Page

On Behalf Of:

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Saving beavers in Oregon is important for several environmental and ecological reasons. Beavers play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Here are some key reasons why we should focus on their conservation:

**Ecosystem Engineers:** Beavers are often referred to as "ecosystem engineers" because of their ability to significantly alter their environment. By building dams, beavers create wetlands that provide habitats for a variety of species, including birds, fish, amphibians, and plants.

**Water Quality Improvement:** Beaver dams can improve water quality by trapping sediments, filtering pollutants, and reducing erosion. This can be especially beneficial in areas with poor water quality, as beaver-created wetlands can act as natural water treatment systems.

**Flood Mitigation:** Beaver dams help slow down the flow of water, reducing the risk of downstream flooding. This can be crucial in areas where flooding has become more frequent or severe due to climate change or urban development.

**Biodiversity Enhancement:** The wetlands created by beavers support diverse wildlife populations. Fish species like salmon and trout can benefit from the slower, cooler water in beaver ponds, while other animals like birds, otters, and muskrats thrive in these ecosystems.

**Climate Change Resilience:** As climate change affects water availability and weather patterns, beavers can help maintain water reserves in ecosystems. Their dams create wetlands that store water and provide a more stable environment during droughts.

**Restoring Historical Habitats:** Beavers were historically a key part of Oregon's ecosystem before being trapped nearly to extinction in the 1800s. By reintroducing beavers, we can help restore the natural balance of these ecosystems.

**Cost-Effective Solutions:** Beavers can help address issues like erosion and flooding in ways that are more sustainable and cost-effective than human-engineered solutions. Rather than spending money on dams and levees, allowing beavers to do their work can save resources while providing long-term environmental benefits.

In short, protecting beavers in Oregon can have far-reaching positive effects on biodiversity, water quality, climate resilience, and overall ecosystem health. By fostering a healthy environment for beavers, we can also benefit the broader natural world.