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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: HB3932

There are 310,464 miles of big rivers and small streams in Oregon, of which only 46% have been assessed for water quality data and 106,390 miles have been deemed impaired (Category 4 and 5 of DEQ'

s water quality classification)

To restore impaired waterways, DEQ needs to be develop TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load assessments) for each waterway. But TMDLs are expensive, and DEQ lacks resources to develop and implement a TMDL for every stream and watershed that needs one. As a result, most streams continue to stay impaired in Oregon.

Based on the DEQ's current data, the primary factors for a waterway to be deemed impaired are: high water temperature, sedimentation, dissolved oxygen level, bio-criteria (health of invertebrates and shellfish) toxins (along the coast).

Scientific research and literature has shown that beaver dam complexes and floodplains help to address four of these top five factors - they are nature's solution, and they tackle these issues free of charge.