

Submitter: Deborah Carey
On Behalf Of: 350 Corvallis
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

HB 3932 allows beavers to help restore Oregon's thousands of miles of impaired waterway—for free. Shockingly, more than 2/3 of surveyed waterways in Oregon (106,390 miles) are currently classified as "impaired."

This bill proposes closing hunting and trapping of beavers on the waterways existing on public lands that have been deemed impaired by these DEQ standards. Evidence shows that beaver dam complexes help address most of these water quality issues and can do it for FREE! Beavers are ecosystem master engineers that once thrived in our state, giving us our nickname. Their activities, such as canal-digging and dam-building, help slow water flow, restore impacted water tables and underground aquifers, create natural wetlands that help filter toxins, and simultaneously create wildlife and fish habitats. Almost half of Oregon's streams and rivers currently suffer from poor water quality. That's more than 100,000 miles of waterways! The Department of Environmental Quality is tasked with restoring these waterways, but unfortunately, lacks the resources to do so at the scale that is needed. This is where beavers can help.