



Offices of Representative Pam Marsh & Representative Emerson Levy

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Oregon House Passes Bill to Keep Beavers Working on Public Lands

HB 3932 supports beavers' natural ability to improve water quality

Salem, OR – Today, the Oregon House voted in favor of [HB 3932](#) which will close recreational and commercial beaver trapping on impaired waterways within state and federal land in Oregon. The purpose of the bill is to retain beavers where they are and encourage their dispersal to creeks and streams where they can perform their ecological functions.

“This legislation gives us an opportunity to try a low-tech, low-risk, and free strategy to address impaired waterways by encouraging beavers to return to Oregon landscapes. The science says this can work, and we’re willing to give it a try,” says **Rep. Pam Marsh (D-Southern Jackson County)**.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality designates waters as impaired based on specific criteria including temperature, sedimentation, level of dissolved oxygen, and health of invertebrates. There are currently over 100,000 miles of waterways in Oregon with an impaired designation.

Studies show that beaver dam complexes can address water quality issues because their dams and ponds slow flowing water, which allows pollutants to settle out, thereby improving water quality. Beavers’ instinctive behavior also benefits Oregon landscapes by recharging groundwater, slowing wildfire, and creating habitat for fish and wildlife.

A 2024 report by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife showed that only 4 percent of beaver harvest takes place on public lands. Most recreational trapping in Oregon occurs on private lands, which will not be affected by HB 3932.

“Central Oregon knows firsthand the challenges of water scarcity and wildfire risk. By protecting beavers where they do the most good, we’re investing in natural solutions that support clean

water, healthy forests, and more resilient communities,” said **Rep. Emerson Levy (D-Central Oregon)**. “This bill is a practical step forward that honors the stewardship of our shared public lands.”

HB 3932 is now headed to the Oregon Senate.

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