

## HB 2843 - Beaver Trapping/Hunting Closure on Federally-managed Public Lands (FMPL) in Oregon

Habitat created by beaver brings significant ecological and economic benefits to people, fish and wildlife. For these benefits to be realized, beaver must build and maintain their dams and expand in numbers and distributions across the state.

**Beaver and other wildlife on federally-managed public lands (FMPL) in Oregon are primarily managed by the state through Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).** Current furbearer regulations allow for recreational and commercial beaver trapping and hunting during the breeding/pregnancy season, and since beaver kits stay with the adults for up to two years, a whole colony can be removed in a single season. From 2000 to 2018, over 58,000 beaver kills were reported to the State.



*Beaver ponds and wetlands provide fire breaks and wildlife and livestock safe zones and habitat during and after a wildfire. (Sharps Fire, Idaho) Photo: Joe Wheaton*

HB 2843 would reduce the only cause of beaver mortality that humans can control—trapping and hunting by the public. **Federal land managers are not restricted by this bill** and would retain the ability to manage beaver-infrastructure conflicts. While non-lethal control methods are encouraged to prevent recurring problems and costs, and to maintain beaver-related benefits, all options for addressing beaver-infrastructure conflicts remain open. *Beaver trapping and hunting would still be allowed on state and county public lands, and on private lands with permission of the landowner.*

**HB 2843 addresses federally-managed public land** because these areas are 1) public, 2) have an abundance of streams whose size is conducive to beaver dam building, 3) have limited infrastructure and fewer conflicts, 4) tend to be the source of water for cities, towns and agricultural communities, and 5) are places where improvements in fish and wildlife habitat can occur in large blocks.

### BEAVERS & HB 2843 BENEFIT OREGON

HB 2843 **affects fewer than 170 beaver trappers and hunters** who are licensed under furbearer regulations through ODFW (ODFW 2018 data), while benefiting 4.2 million Oregonians and countless fish and wildlife.

Passage of HB 2843 would provide **numerous benefits to Oregonians at little to no cost**, while an economic analysis<sup>1</sup> shows that the market and non-market benefits of passing this bill are worth 100s of millions of dollars in ecosystems services and restoration savings. These benefits would increase in value over time. HB 2843 would affect about 32-million acres in Oregon, or roughly 50% of the state.

### BEAVERS & HB 2843 CREATE:

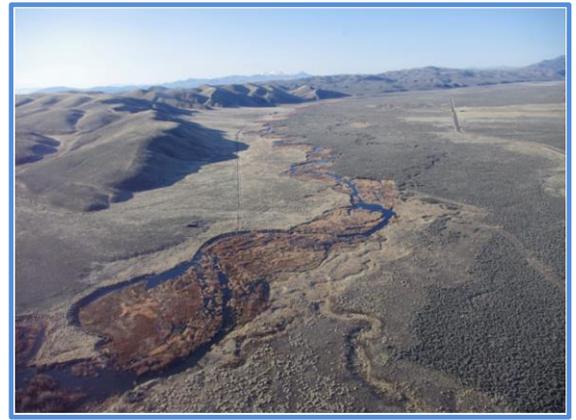
- Natural firebreaks, wildlife and livestock safety zones during wildfires, and habitat post-fire
- Carbon capture and store areas that remove carbon from the atmosphere via photosynthesis
- Wetlands and ponds that store surface and groundwater for slow and sustained release
- A uniform, unambiguous beaver trapping/hunting policy on FMPLs with statewide benefits

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/marsh/Documents/EconBenefitsBeaver.pdf>

**BEAVERS & HB 2843 IMPROVE or EXPAND:**

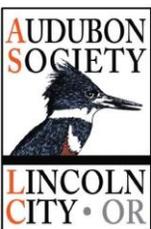
- Water security for municipal and agricultural users
- Drinking water quality
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Rearing habitat for 11 endangered salmonid stocks in OR
- Habitat connectivity
- Stream and riparian habitat restoration efforts
- Stream temperatures
- Migratory bird habitat
- Recreational opportunities



*Beaver ponds and wetlands provide needed water and habitat in dry landscapes even during droughts. (Maggie Creek, Elko Nevada. April 16, 2012.) Photo:*

**HB 2843 ADDRESSES OREGON’S GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

- [ODFW’s Oregon Conservation Strategy](#)
- [Oregon’s 100-Year Water Vision](#)
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Mission Statement: “To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.”
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Climate and Ocean Change Policy



Citizens for a Better Lincoln County



**HB 2843 Online:** <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2843>

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