2024 01 27 WSDCCRES1027 --- ENV RESOLUTION 1 2 Support Formation of a Beaver Ecosystem Management Plan 3 4 WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature is currently in session until March 7, 2024 and is 5 considering SB5846 (2024), and this resolution is relevant to the ideas contained therein; and 6 7 WHEREAS beavers play a significant role in maintaining the health of ecosystems in Washington 8 as a keystone species that provide habitats and resources that other species, including but not limited 9 to: salmon, steelhead, trout, waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, elk, songbirds, bats, cougars, bears, and 10 amphibians need to survive; and 11 WHEREAS the many other benefits of beaver presence in habitats are described in SB5846; and 12 13 WHEREAS the importance of beavers to ecosystems is so significant that they merit funding for 14 15 study, monitoring, and educational programs; 16 17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) supports legislation, including SB5846 (2024), which instructs the Department of Fish 18 19 and Wildlife to create and implement a statewide beaver ecosystem management plan, which must 20 define the role that beavers play in maintaining the health of ecosystems and biodiversity in Washington including, but not limited to, providing benefits in watersheds including natural ground 21 22 and surface water storage, stream temperature moderation, improved water quality, reduced stream velocities, reduced stream sediment transport, moderation of extreme flood events, habitat and 23 24 biodiversity provision, reduced nutrient transport, increased pollutant and greenhouse gas 25 sequestration, and the improvement or creation of habitat for other species; and 26 27 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that WSDCC shall forward a copy of this 28 resolution to the Governor of the State of Washington, all Washington State House and Senate 29 Democrats, and all members of the 2024 Washington State Democratic Convention Platform Committee. 30 31 32 33 References 34 35 SB5846, sponsored by Salomon, Lias, Lovelett, Saldaña, Van De Wege (all D). 36 37 Skidmore, P. and Wheaton, J. (2022) Riverscapes as natural infrastructure: Meeting challenges of climate 38 adaptation and ecosystem restoration. Anthropocene. 38 (June 2022) 100334. 39 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2022.100334 40 Aneta Spyra, Anna Cieplok, Mariola Krodkiewska (June 12, 2023) Beavers ecosystem altering: Influence of 41

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