



Vote NO on HB 2844: Protect Landowners' Ability to Manage Beavers!

Our coalition represents farmers, ranchers, small woodland owners, timberland owners, irrigation districts and others who would be greatly impacted by the limitations on the ability to manage beavers imposed by HB 2844.

Beavers are an important species in Oregon's landscape, but are renowned for creating challenges for our critical farm, forest, and county infrastructure. Beavers can cause extensive riparian damage, their dams can block culverts, wash out critical roads, flood farm fields, homes, and parks, and alter water systems that our members rely upon for their farms, forests, and infrastructure. Our members rely on the ability to privately trap beavers to avoid the significant damage that can result from their overabundance in certain parts of the state.

Presently, beavers are correctly classified as a "rodent" and managed under ORS 610.002 as a predator on private lands. Under current law, they can be taken by a private landowner or their agent on their private lands without the need for state authorization. They can be taken on public lands with a furbearer license and adherence to all pertinent regulations. HB 2844 would change that management structure, moving management authority to ODFW and away from ODA where all other predatory animal rules are currently administered. The bill would require a permit be issued for all take of beaver, require questionable relocation and non-lethal deterrence measures, and pile on onerous reporting timelines.

Our coalition strongly opposes this approach because:

- **It is not grounded in science.** Beavers are abundant on our landscape, and there is no data that suggests that they need additional protection. Additionally, the bill proposes to remove the classification of beavers as a rodent. Beavers are taxonomically classified as rodents and should be correctly identified in statute.
- **It does not allow for agility in management.** HB 2844 would remove the ability of landowners to address damage on their property without first getting a permit from ODFW and completing non-lethal deterrence as outlined in the bill, some of which will actually harm beaver populations. There is no ability to expedite this process if there is a beaver whose dam is causing jeopardy to property or damaging crops. Our landowners need to maintain the ability to manage predatory species as needed to protect their operations – the state should not eliminate tools, especially with no sound scientific basis to do so.
- **It upends ODFW's existing workgroup process.** After a petition regarding trapping on federal lands was voted down by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, ODFW created a workgroup that is going to address a myriad of issues related to beaver management. The legislature should not disrupt that process.

Our state's wildlife management decisions must be grounded in science, give landowners, local governments, and land managers the tools they need to address problems as they arise, and respect the current roles and responsibilities of agencies. HB 2844 misses the mark across the board. **We urge you to OPPOSE HB 2844.**

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