

**HB 3464 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Sen. Golden

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources**


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**Action Date:** 05/10/23  
**Action:** Do pass the A-Eng bill.  
**Vote:** 3-0-2-0  
**Yeas:** 3 - Golden, Prozanski, Taylor  
**Exc:** 2 - Girod, Smith DB  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 5/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Removes beavers from the definition of “predatory animal” under the animal laws administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Allows taking of beaver as a "fur-bearing animal" under the wildlife laws administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) provided the person who takes the beaver obtains a take permit. Creates an exception to the take permit requirement if the beaver damages or imminently threatens infrastructure or agricultural crops, and for an owner of small forestland if the beaver is causing damage or has the potential to cause damage. Requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules by December 31, 2024 that govern the taking of beavers. Establishes criteria and Commission considerations for rulemaking. Requires certain persons exempt from a take permit to still report the taking. Requires ODFW to publish data relating to taking beaver in a publicly available annual report. Prohibits the application of the rules to the taking of beaver on privately owned forestland if the taking is subject to certain Private Forest Accord provisions. Establishes definitions of “forestland” and “small forestland.” Specifies that the removal of beavers from the "predatory animal" definition becomes operative on the date the Commission adopts rules. Requires the Commission to notify the Legislative Counsel upon rules adoption.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Ecological benefits of beaver on the landscape
- Efforts to replicate beaver activity and beaver dams in Eastern Oregon
- Potential for beaver to be a threat to agricultural crops and infrastructure
- Permit exemption for imminent threat to infrastructure would apply to culverts in rural areas
- Agency process if there were a dispute as to whether a beaver threat was imminent
- Different pathway for small woodland owners due to the Private Forest Accord agreement

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Beavers causing damage on private property are defined as predatory animals and rodents under animal laws administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ORS 610.002). Current state law allows unlimited taking of beaver on private land without a permit. Beavers are also defined as furbearers under wildlife laws administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ORS 496.004), and the agency currently issues take permits for species of furbearers other than beaver.

House Bill 3464 A would remove beaver from the statutory definition of "predatory animal;" allow for taking of beaver by permit with certain exceptions for threats to infrastructure or crops, and for certain small forestland owners; and require the adoption of rules and publishing of an annual report related to beaver take.