

Submitter: Becky Crockett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

SB 199 does not put the right people in place to get the job done for Oregon! Designating authority to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission for a management issue that is vital to the survival of Oregon agriculture is akin to asking the Oregon Health Authority to develop wildfire risk maps. It just doesn't make sense for the ODFW Commission to make rules for predation that primarily impacts agricultural operations. There are no active ag-producers on the 7 member ODFW Commission to understand or appreciate the significance of this issue to farmers.

Predation is a significant economic factor in agricultural production spanning commodities (beef, sheep, swine, goats, etc) to greenhouses (strawberries, fresh vegetables) to field crops. On a daily basis we deal with geese, ducks, nutria, boomers (mountain beavers), muskrats, beavers, coyotes, cougars and bears. To enable the ODFW Commission, with scant agricultural experience, to have governing authority to regulate these predators would be detrimental to the ag-industry. Several real time decisions made by the ODFW Commission would indicate their approach to regulating predators would be to let the predators feast on the riches of Oregon agriculture. SB 199 clearly signals the demise of Oregon agriculture for the benefit of the predators! Please stop this bill and save Oregon agriculture.