

HB 3932 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules with specific criteria related to navigable or non-navigable rivers, streams, and watersheds and which prohibit a person from taking a beaver, for a recreational or commercial purpose, from such waterways and watersheds.

Detailed summary:

Defines terms. Requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules specific criteria related to navigable or non-navigable rivers, streams, and watersheds and which prohibit a person from taking a beaver, for a recreational or commercial purpose, from such waterways and watersheds. Requires the Commission to adopt rules in section 2 as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act. Allows an employee of a federal or state land management agency may take a beaver or arrange for the taking of a beaver for certain allowable reasons. Specifies that provisions of the measure and rulemaking do not apply on public lands that are otherwise closed to the hunting and trapping of beaver.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Department of Environmental Quality-classified impaired waterways
- Potential advantages and disadvantages of beaver activity on the landscape

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment removes Commission rulemaking authority and requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to publish a map of areas that meet criteria for where taking beaver is prohibited, with some areas exempted.

Detailed summary:

Removes requirements that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) adopt rules for specific criteria related to navigable or non-navigable rivers, streams, and watersheds and which prohibit a person from taking a beaver, for a recreational or commercial purpose, from such waterways and watersheds. Prohibits a person from taking a beaver for recreational or commercial purposes from certain areas. Exempts employees of a federal or state land management agency from prohibition. Requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to publish a map of areas that meet criteria for where taking beaver is prohibited, with some areas exempted, and to update the map every two years in consultation with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Allows lethal removal or relocation of beaver by a state or federal employee when authorized by ODFW. Establishes that the treaty, statutory, regulatory, or aboriginal rights or interests of a federally recognized Indian tribe or the ability to undertake tribal harvest activities or cooperative management under a cooperative management agreement between a tribe and ODFW are not superseded by provisions of section 2 of this Act.

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- **FISCAL:** Minimal Fiscal Impact
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- **REVENUE:** No Revenue Impact

BACKGROUND:

Prior to 2023, beavers causing damage on private property were defined as predatory animals and rodents under animal laws administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and unlimited taking of beaver on private land without a permit was allowed. House Bill 3464 (2023) removed beavers from the statutory definition of "predatory animal," and allowed for killing beaver only by permit, with exceptions for threats to infrastructure or crops and for certain small forestland owners.

PRELIMINARY