

HB 3932 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Meeting Dates: 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure prohibits the taking of beavers in designated areas and requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to publish a map identifying these areas. It allows federal or state land management agency employees to take beavers only when necessary to address damage or an imminent threat to infrastructure, agricultural crops, or private property adjacent to public lands, and only with authorization from ODFW. Establishes that it does not supersede the treaty, statutory, regulatory, or aboriginal rights of federally recognized Tribes, nor interfere with Tribal harvest activities or cooperative management agreements between Tribes and ODFW.

Fiscal impact: Has minimal fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

Detailed Summary:

Defines terms and prohibits individuals from taking beavers for recreational or commercial purposes in specific areas designated by ODFW. Requires ODFW to identify these areas on a map published and updated every two years in coordination with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Exempts federal or state land management agency employees from prohibition, who may only take or relocate beavers with ODFW approval if needed to address damage or imminent threats to infrastructure, crops, or private land near public lands. Clarifies that the prohibition does not apply to private lands located below the ordinary high water line of a navigable waterway or to public lands closed to beaver hunting or trapping. Establishes that the measure does not override the treaty, statutory, regulatory, or aboriginal rights of federally recognized Tribes, nor does it interfere with Tribal harvest activities or cooperative management efforts between Tribes and ODFW.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 3464 (2023) modified the way beavers are managed on private property in Oregon. Prior to its passage, beavers were classified as "predatory animals" and rodents under laws administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), allowing landowners to kill them on private land without a permit. The bill removed beavers from this classification and shifted management authority to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Current law requires landowners to obtain a permit from ODFW to legally take a beaver. Before a permit is issued, they are required to attempt non-lethal mitigation methods—such as installing tree barriers, using repellents, or planting beaver-resistant vegetation. Beavers may still be taken for their fur during the legal hunting and trapping season, which runs from November 15 to March 15, with the appropriate licenses from ODFW. However, trapping on public lands remains subject to additional regulations.