

Submitter: Samuel Buszkohl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

To the Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment.

As a resident, hunter, angler, and small acreage farmer, I am opposed to HB 3932 that would limit the recreational trapping opportunities for beaver on public land. There is no evidence that beaver numbers are in any way threatened by recreational trapping on public land nor is there any scientific evidence to suggest that beaver dams reduce the risk of wildfire on the landscape. Beaver numbers are robust and healthy as listed by ODFW and recreational trapping on public land provides a very low cost management tool in maintaining healthy beavers populations. By eliminating this tool via legislation, ODFW loses an opportunity to manage the population on a scientific basis and will likely need to spend more money trapping and relocating or eliminating beavers with the taxpayers footing the bill.

HB 3932 would effectively eliminate recreational trapping on public land as beavers spend the overwhelming majority of their lives within 200 feet of the high water mark. This is simply another thinly veiled attempt to eliminate a practice that certain groups don't like. As introduced, this bill takes wildlife management out of the hands of the qualified public employees of ODFW and puts it in the hands of politicians in direct contradiction of the North American Model of Wildlife Management. I strongly believe that wildlife management belongs in the hands of those who are appointed and qualified to make those decisions and we have over one hundred years of history to support its effectiveness, bringing several species back from the brink of extinction and keeping many others from ending up on the ESA list. Making wildlife management decisions via public opinion by ballot measure or by other legislation is the single greatest threat to this model.

In summary, I ask you to oppose this bill as it directly contradicts ODFW's scientific approach to wildlife management and effectively bans beaver trapping on public lands within the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Samuel Buszkohl