

Submitter: Daniel Jenkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

To whom it may concern,  
I completely reject HB 3932 as being nothing more than another attempt to outlaw all trapping in Oregon altogether, or one species at a time as in this instance. One look at the number of beaver taken every year by trappers across our entire state will easily show that beaver trapping for fur, in and of itself, has a miniscule effect upon the overall populations managed within our borders, but there are more issues to consider.

As a retired ODFW fisheries biologist I have personally witnessed where whole populations in certain drainages have been severely damaged or eradicated by outbreaks of disease such as tularemia, which can be devastating to existing beaver populations. If anything, instead of outlawing the trapping of beavers, we should be on the lookout for infected colonies and remove the existing population, using the best and most efficient method available to us, which is trapping. And of course, keeping beaver numbers managed to prevent overpopulation, which leads to the rapid spread of any disease, should be seriously considered as well, and once again trapping is the best and most effective tool for the job.

Another point worth consideration is that beaver can be very destructive by blocking culverts, which results in major damage to roads, which costs tens of thousands of dollars to repair. There is the damage to timber plantations and farm crops from the flooding of planted areas and cultivated fields or fruit and nut trees being cut down or girdled by beavers and also damage to many species of trees located near residential homes which can cost thousands to replace. Much more can and is written on this subject as there are numerous books available on of beaver damage control available to the public and professional that can shed much light on this topic, not to mention, beaver damage control is a well established business, which provides income to thousands of families nationwide. And once again, trapping is the best and most effective tool to deal with beaver damage issues.

Needless to say, HR3932 is a very bad Idea, brought to the table by well intentioned souls with little first hand knowledge of its long term negative unintended consequences.

Please vote no on HB3932.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Jenkins