

Submitter: Matthew Dickason  
On Behalf Of: Hunters and Trappers  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Hello, I am writing in to voice my opposition to HB3932. This bill on it's face is lacking scientific evidence written or anecdotal. It goes against our current model of western game conservation, which has been one of the few things working for better wildlife populations since the late 19th century when it comes to overall policy. It goes against centuries of traditional use for both indigenous and non indigenous hunters and trappers. There are no attachments indicating that a lack of beavers on the landscape are contributing to wildfire severity or frequency. There are no indications that beaver populations are in need of protection from trapping.

It appears that this bill is just another appeal to the emotions of people who want to do positive things for animal populations and wildfire, but lack the context of what is actually helpful. Oregon needs to keep our decisions regarding wildlife management in the hands of biologists and ecologists who dedicate their lives studying these animals and ecosystems. People making uninformed decisions based on emotion is no way to help our wildlife, or reduce wildfire activity. In the event beaver trapping is prohibited on public land, government hired trappers will still need to come remove animals that are causing flooding or infrastructure issues, all on the tax payer's dime. Trapping in it's current form allows the public to do this after extra education is completed beyond a standard hunters safety course, and the fees involved go to fund the ODFW.

If our state wildlife experts or sound outside science indicated that this ban would be a benefit to reducing wildfire, or if beaver populations were facing steep declines, I would certainly deep dive into that evidence. Since this bill includes nothing of that sort, I believe it should be removed from consideration. Thank you for your time.

Matt Dickason  
Father, Conservationist, Hunter, Fisherman