

Submitter: Steven Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Hello,

First I would like to thank the members of the Committee for reading and considering this testimony. I am writing in opposition of proposed bill to ban trapping of beaver as it is in direct contradiction with sound, science based wildlife management and conservation practices. ODFW data show that trapping does not have a negative impact on beaver population in the state of Oregon and in fact, a ban would have negative impacts on wildlife as there would be a drastic reduction in funds that are needed to manage beaver and other wildlife appropriately. License and excise-tax revenues from hunting, fishing, and trapping fund 80 % of Oregon's wildlife budget, so this can be seen as nothing short of a direct attack on the functions that support sustainable populations of beaver, other wildlife and their habitats in the state. A balanced management approach of non-lethal options first, followed by regulated harvest when necessary already exists, with data to back up that it is an effective and sustainable approach. When these points are coupled with the potential damage that unmanaged beaver populations can do to rivers and streams that support native and sometimes threatened fish species in the state, it is very clear that regulated trapping and harvest of beaver is not only an effective management tool, but a vital one.

I urge the Committee to let ODFW remain the management authority for these kind of decisions as simply using emotional sentiment as the primary wildlife management tool will lead to overall poor if not fully destroyed wildlife populations and habitats.