



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish & Wildlife

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE

Salem, OR. 97302

(503) 947-6044

(503) 947-6042

dfw.state.or.us

Date: May 5, 2025

**To: The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire**

House Bill 3932

Shaun Clements, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife appreciates the opportunity to provide context on House Bill 3932A regarding the existing process for setting harvest regulations and some recent history regarding the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) consideration of beaver harvest. The Department has no position on HB 3932.

The Oregon legislature has statutorily vested authority to regulate harvest of all fish and wildlife to the Commission (ORS 496.162). In exercising the authority in ORS 496.162 to set seasons and limits, the Commission is required to consider the co-equal goals in the wildlife policy (ORS 496.012) and make decisions based on best available science and with input from the public and affected parties.

Harvest closures are a common management tool implemented by the Commission for a variety of reasons, including species conservation and habitat restoration. At present, there are 16 beaver harvest closures currently in Oregon. Some of these closures have been in place for over 60 years. Since 2020, the Commission has considered whether to implement a general ban on beaver harvest in four separate Commission meetings in response to petitions or requests. After review of available information and with extensive input from the public, the Commission has, to date, declined to take additional action regarding harvest. In part, the decision was based on available information indicating harvest is not limiting beaver abundance, dams, or beaver-modified habitats.

HB 3932 would likely permanently remove the Commission from a decision-making role with respect to beaver harvest on much of Oregon's public lands and the consideration of site specific science and public input in setting harvest.

CONTACT: Shaun Clements, Deputy Director, Shaun.Clements@odfw.oregon.gov