



Vote NO on HB 2844:

Protect Trapping Rights and Landowners' Ability to Manage Damage!

Our coalition represents trappers, hunters, outdoor sportspersons, and others who would be greatly impacted by the ant-trapping and anti-management precedent imposed by HB 2844.

Beavers are an important species in Oregon's landscape, but are renowned for creating challenges for critical farm, forest, and county infrastructure. Private trappers are often engaged by landowners since state and federal agents have been defunded to the point of being unavailable to offer timely assistance. This bill significantly impacts landowners' ability to manage private lands and it also directly impacts the trapping community.

Beavers, along with several other animals, are listed both as a furbearer and as a predatory animal. Under current law (ORS 610.002), they can be taken by a private landowner or their agent on private land without the need for state authorization. They can be taken on public lands with a furbearer license and adherence to all pertinent regulations. HB 2844 would change this established management structure, moving implementation of the predatory animal regulation away from ODA where all other predatory animal rules are currently administered.

We strongly opposes this approach because:

- **It is not grounded in science.** Beavers are abundant on our landscape, and there is no data that suggests that they need additional protection. Additionally, the bill proposes to remove the classification of beavers as a rodent. Beavers are scientifically and taxonomically classified as rodents and should continue to be correctly identified in statute.
- **It does not allow for agility in management.** HB 2844 would remove the ability of landowners to address damage on their property without first getting a permit from ODFW and completing non-lethal deterrence as outlined in the bill, some of which will actually harm beaver populations. There is no ability to expedite this process if there is a beaver whose foraging activity or dam is causing jeopardy to property or damaging crops.
- **It upends ODFW's existing workgroup process.** After a petition regarding trapping on federal lands was voted down by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, ODFW created a workgroup that is going to address a myriad of issues related to beaver management. The legislature should not disrupt that process.
- **It is another attack on trapping rights in Oregon.** Numerous petitions and legislative concepts have been initiated in recent years to restrict or ban trapping activities. Trapping is a scientifically sound, responsible, and sustainable activity within the tenants of the North American Model of Conservation, a vital heritage skill, and cultural touchstone within many communities.

HB 2844 is not grounded in science, nor has it proven a need to move away from the established management structure relating to predatory animals and beaver, in particular.

We urge you to OPPOSE HB 2844.