

Oregon is known as the "Beaver State." Beavers are our state mammal, as well as the mascot of our state university. It is shameful that they can be killed at random, in unlimited numbers by anyone. Beavers are not pests -- they provide many valuable environmental services. Beavers should be managed by the ODFW, like most other wildlife species in Oregon.

- Beavers are a vital component for Oregon's ecological health, and can provide Oregonians with vast positive benefits, including:
Increased wildfire resilience (through natural and effective firebreaks and post-fire habitat);
Increased water security through wetlands and ponds storing surface and groundwater;
Carbon capture and storage that helps remove carbon from the atmosphere;
Improved drinking water quality and stream temperatures;
Rearing habitat for multiple imperiled salmonid species.
- The bill encourages beaver presence on the landscape to create an atmosphere where Oregon sees more benefits from increased, and more widely-distributed beaver populations in Oregon.
- The bill removes the predatory animal status for beaver, which allows Oregon's wildlife experts, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to manage beaver everywhere in Oregon as it does for the vast majority of wildlife in Oregon, including deer, elk, black bear, wolves, raccoons, fish, and others.
- The bill encourages the use of non-lethal co-existence tools to prevent beaver-related property and infrastructure damage.
- The bill does not remove any tools from the toolbox for landowners in Oregon, as lethal removal of beaver is still an option.
- The bill returns wildlife management to Oregon's wildlife experts at ODFW, without precluding the Oregon Department of Agriculture from working with landowners to protect their property, crops, and infrastructure.