

HB 3464 -6, -8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes beavers from definitions of “predatory animal” and “rodent” for purposes of certain statutes relating to taking of predatory animals. Requires Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules on or before December 31, 2024, related to taking of beavers. Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish annual report related to taking of beavers and to make report available to public.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Classification of beavers as fur bearers
- Agricultural crop damage
- Methods to control beaver damage
- Rulemaking timeline for agency
- Public engagement process
- Management and use of public versus private lands
- Private Forest Accord
- Appropriate agency to manage beavers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Removes reference to “rodent” in definition of “predatory animal.” Deletes “Whether, and under which conditions,” and inserts “Under which conditions” in sentence authorizing a person to take a beaver without a permit if the beaver is causing damage to property or infrastructure. Authorizes a person to take a beaver without first obtaining a permit from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) if a beaver imminently threatens infrastructure or agricultural crops, notwithstanding any contrary prohibition by the Commission and any contrary rules adopted by the Commission. Requires a person who takes a beaver to report the take as required by rules adopted by the Commission. Establishes that rules adopted do not apply to the take of a beaver on privately owned forestland, if subject to certain provisions. Establishes that “forestland” has the meaning given that term in ORS 527.620. Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish annual report related to taking of beavers and to make report available to public. Establishes that amendments become operative on the date the Commission adopts rules. Requires the Commission to notify the Legislative Counsel upon rules adoption.

-8 Replaces the measure.

Removes beavers from definitions of “predatory animal.” Allows taking of beaver under wildlife laws (ORS 498.012) if the beaver damages or imminently threatens infrastructure or agricultural crops, and by an owner of small forestland if the beaver is causing damage or has the potential to cause damage. Requires Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) to adopt rules on or before December 31, 2024, related to taking of beavers. Establishes criteria and Commission considerations for rulemaking. Requires Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish annual report related to taking of beavers and to make report available to public. Establishes definitions of “forestland” and “small forestland.” Establishes that amendments become operative on the date the Commission adopts rules. Requires the Commission to notify the Legislative Counsel upon rules adoption.

- *FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact*
- *REVENUE: No revenue impact*

No subsequent referral

BACKGROUND:

Beavers causing damage on private property are defined as predatory animals under ORS 610.002. Current state law allows unlimited beaver killing on private land without a permit.

House Bill 3464 would require the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules related to taking of beavers and require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish annual report related to taking of beavers.