

HB 3464 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Marsh

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Helm, Kropf, Levy B, Levy E, Marsh, Osborne, Owens, Pham K, Wallan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Erin Pischke, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes beavers from the definition of “predatory animal” in ORS chapter 610 (predatory animals). 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 amendment to statutory definition of "predatory animal" becomes operative on the date the Commission adopts rules. Requires the Commission to notify the Legislative Counsel upon rules adoption.

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:

Replaces the measure except for whereas clauses.

BACKGROUND:

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

House Bill 3464 A removes beaver from the statutory definition of "predatory animal" and requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules related to taking of beavers. The measure authorizes the taking of beaver 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. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is directed to publish annual report related to taking of beavers.