

Chair Golden and Committee Members:

I am a co-founder of and advisor to the Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program ([AWPP](#)). This county program provides grant funds to farmers for the purchase of wildlife deterrents such as livestock guardian animals, electrified fencing, scare devices, and protective housing. I am writing to urge you to support SB 199 which would return the regulation and management of all wildlife species to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The absurd species classifications defined in ORS Chapter 610 have little to do with their important ecological roles and the complex matrix of species, classifications, land ownership, and management responsibility complicates the regulation of the state's wildlife and is a source of embarrassment for ODFW and our state.

Species	Public Land	Private Land
Bobcat, Gray Fox, Red Fox, Marten, Mink, Raccoon, River Otter	Furbearer	Furbearer
Beaver, Muskrat	Furbearer	Predatory Animal
Coyote, Gopher, Marmot, Mountain Beaver, Nutria, Porcupine	Unprotected Mammal	Predatory Animal
Badger, Mole, Opossum, Spotted Skunk, Striped Skunk, Long-Tailed Weasel, Short- Tailed Weasel	Unprotected Mammal	Unprotected Mammal

From Derek Broman, ODFW Furbearer Coordinator, Oregon Trap Check History Presentation, July 16, 2021

For example, this past summer I was watching coyote pups at a den site at an ODFW wildlife area. I asked the wildlife area manager if coyote hunting was allowed on the wildlife area. Sadly, it required eight emails over three days between myself and the ODFW wildlife area manager and his supervisor, the ODFW Watershed Manager, and Headquarters staff to determine if coyotes could be hunted!

Last week, I spoke with an Oregon State University Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist who was shocked to learn that the state department of agriculture, not the state department of wildlife, managed predatory animals on private land.

It is important to note that SB 199 would not prevent private landowners from protecting their livestock from predatory animals.

In reality, these designations to freely kill predators may no longer necessary. Farms in Benton County that are using non-lethal deterrents to protect their livestock report that deterrents are much more effective at preventing livestock losses than killing wildlife.

Please vote YES on SB 199 to restore the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's ability to regulate all wildlife.

Respectfully,

Randy Comeleo
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<https://www.co.benton.or.us/awpp>