



Oppose HB 3464 – Further Restrictions on Predatory Animal Management

Our coalition asks for you to oppose HB 3464, which will remove beavers from the statutory definition of “predatory animal” under Oregon law, and will no longer recognize beavers as rodents in our state. Currently, ORS 610 defines “predatory animal” or “predatory animals” to include feral swine, coyotes, rabbits, rodents and birds that are or may be destructive to agricultural crops, products and activities and many agricultural sectors rely on effective predatory animal management to prevent costly depredation on their operations.

Under current law, our operators have been able to effectively manage predatory animal damage and mitigate economic losses to their operations. Predatory animal management includes management of the incredibly costly damage beavers can do to agricultural operations. HB 3464 has the potential to cost our operators significantly in time and economic losses. Beavers receive additional protection under the Private Forest Accord and on federally managed public lands- there is not a need at this time to change how our farmers and ranchers manage beavers on their operations.

HB 3464 also gives the authority to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish rules as to whether, and under which conditions, an agricultural landowner would be authorized to take a beaver without a permit if the beaver is causing damage to property or infrastructure. **There is no guarantee**, no matter how much economic loss a farmer is suffering, that they will be able to stop the damage in an expedited manner. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is an agency tasked with enhancing wildlife in their habitats, i.e. the natural world. While our operations are working lands and certainly outdoors, they are not natural habitats for these unprotected predatory animals, and when they enter our agricultural lands and begin to cause damage, they are no longer under the purview of ODFW. It would be inappropriate for the ODFW Commission to have authority to make rules and regulations related to the predatory animal management of beavers on agricultural operations, especially considering nowhere in their mission or as part of their agency operations do they consider the value of agriculture to Oregon, or the economic cost of predatory animal management and damage to this important economic sector.

HB 3464 will require the management of beavers only during state business hours and once again allows for no consideration of a farmer or ranchers' operation, time, expense, or economic loss, including any losses related to the delay in management. Without effective predatory animal control, our producers would experience significant losses of crop types, orchard trees, etc., that they cannot absorb. Continuing management of predatory animals, including beavers, is important to the successful continuation of production agriculture in our state.

Please Vote NO HB 3464.