

Submitter: Lance Portal  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

I'm a Veteran, hunter, fisherman, and also trapper of nuisance wildlife. I trap nuisance beavers on the willamette river. I use all the beavers not just the fur i tan and use, but also beavers are a great meat source for my family and many other families.

Something the supporters of this bill aren't talking about is that just about every river in oregon falls under the clean water act. If their was a science based issues with over haresting of beavers to create dams, ODFW would change the regulations on beaver harvesting like they are doing in areas of Oregon already. Lack or beaver dams, will use the willamette river for example, the purpose of the bill is to create cleaner water by dams. In the river we have no beaver dams even though beaver populations are at a high, they will never have beaver dams in these major waterways. All the beavers in this river bank den due to the extreme water level changes and during flooding would be destroyed them and fast moving water.

As with all wildlife that ODWF are unable to manage due to bills like this, they haven't talked about overpopulation from not being able to manage healthy populations. These are giant rodents and overpopulation have diseases like zoonotic diseases that can be passes from animal to humans by methods of transmission include fecal-oral, respiratory, direct contact, wounds and vector-borne diseases. One of the worse diseases the overabundance of beavers cause is Giardiasis aka beaver fever. When infected beavers defecate in water bodies like beaver dams, lakes, streams, or reservoirs, the parasite cysts (a dormant, resistant stage of the parasite) contaminates the water. Humans and other animals become infected by consuming this contaminated water, even if it appears clear and pristine, think of kids in the summer playing in these rivers.

This bill will cause overpopulation, hunters and trappers help keep healthy populations and us hunters and trappers are seeing this. As beavers reach 2 years old, they are kicked out of the den by the mother to make room for the next seasons babies. The beaver dispersal is in the 100s if not 1000s in alot of oregon up and down the river system, these rivers already has other beavers establish, so these new beavers need to find a new home. Which will cause beaver to beaver conflict, diseases, loss of oregons trees and farm losses and the increased bank dens cause massive bank erosion in rivers unsuitable for dams.

Beavers are a great renewable natural resource, fur used to make cowboy hats,

garments and leather goods. Beaver meat is a lean beef like meat, great source of protein and “it’s also one of the healthiest foods available,” according to Canada’s Health and Social Services Department.

This bill will not help the clean water act. This bill is more about stopping ODFW from having a beaver season by animal right organizations that want to stop all hunting, fishing and trapping. All animals are an important part of Oregon's wildlife ecosystem but so is science-based management. Our ODFW is doing an amazing job and the the right thing by managing populations under the North American Model of Wildlife Management. Which is data and science based not driven by emotions.

Thank you