



June 10, 2020

RE: OPPOSE Beaver Trapping Ban

Dear Chair Wahl and Honorable Commission Members,

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation strongly opposes the proposed amendments to OAR 635050-0070 pertaining to a ban on beaver trapping on specified national forest lands in Oregon.

Regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become endangered. In fact, beaver trapping closures in Wallowa County have been in place for over 45 years on United States Forest Service (USFS) lands in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. During this time, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has reported very little change in the beaver population. Instead, conifer encroachment on public land streams and increased predation pressure from recovered predatory species are considered the reasons beavers populations have not increased significantly.

Trapping is properly managed through regulations based on the best-available science that are strictly enforced by conservation officers. ODFW continually reviews and develops rules, regulations, education programs, and capture methods to ensure the humaneness of trapping. Traps are used not only to maintain healthy furbearer populations, but also to manage game species; protect threatened and endangered species, habitat and property; reintroduce wildlife to historical ranges; and maintain public health and safety. Regulated trapping provides many benefits to wildlife and people and is supported as an effective and ethical wildlife management tool by organizations and government agencies including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies¹, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service², USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services³, The Wildlife Society^{4,5} and the National Wildlife Federation^{6,7,8}.

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation supports ODFW staff recommendations in opposition to the proposed amendment to OAR 635-050-0070 that would ban beaver trapping in specified locations

¹ Addendum 1

² Addendum 2

³ Addendum 3

⁴ Addendum 4

⁵ Addendum 5

⁶ Addendum 6

⁷ Addendum 7

⁸ Addendum 8

in Oregon. Management of Oregon's wildlife should be based on the best-available science and practices. Wildlife management decisions should not be made based off emotion and personal dislike of a certain management tool but, instead, should be based off the expertise of professional fish and wildlife scientists and best-management practices.

Sincerely,

Aoibheann Cline, Western States Coordinator
The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Attachments:

Addendum 1 - Resolution 2011-05-07 Use of Trapper Education Program. AFWA

Addendum 2 - Trapping and Furbearer Management in North American Wildlife Conservation.
USFWS

Addendum 3 - Beaver WDM Technical Series. USDA

Addendum 4 - Public Trust Doctrine and North American Model Support Trapping. TWS

Addendum 5 - Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management. TWS

Addendum 6 - Management of Fish and Wildlife Resolution. NWF

Addendum 7 - Sustainable Forest Management Resolution. NWF

Addendum 8 - Furbearer Management Resolution NWF

