

OHA Talking Points

Opposition to petitioned changes to 2020 Furbearer Regulations

Please utilize these talking points to assist in crafting your email/letter to the ODFW Commission. Feel free to use your own personal beliefs or experiences as well. Letters must be submitted by May 26 to odfw.commission@state.or.us

Standard letter opening similar to this format:

Dear ODFW Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you DENY the petitioned changes to the 2020 Fur Taker regulations.

Talking points:

- The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has always relied on sound science and data to drive its policy making.
- The assertions that trapping impacts are driving beaver populations are not supportable through known science or data.
- There is no demonstrated need for the suggested changes to the furbearer regulations.
- In places where beaver trapping bans exist, there are no demonstrated benefits to those local populations of beaver. Wallowa County records are a classic example where streams have been closed for half of a century, and still no significant presence of a colonizing beaver population according to ODFW.
- The requested ban is permanent and allows no opportunity to utilize scientific findings to determine effectiveness or need.
- The science and data do not exist to support these requested actions.
- The data that the trapping community provides through their mandatory reporting is well established and invaluable in the management of other species. The broad brush of banning beaver trapping across an entire forest or all public lands would not only miss the mark for conservation of the species but may inadvertently remove a valuable tool for information collection.
- ODFW staff, in both the wildlife and fish divisions, have not recommended any major changes to the furbearer regulations and does not support these ban requests.
- If there were an urgent need for protections for beaver or any other species in Oregon, ODFW staff would bring those concerns forward to the Commission to go through the normal rule making process.
- A regulation change of this size, especially presented as a permanent closure, should not be made without the full process of exhaustive research prior to rule-making.
- Habitat conditions, not trapping, are likely larger drivers in beaver populations. Beavers thrive in early successional habitats which are counter to modern forestry regulations and federal management.
- OHA supports science-based wildlife management for both game and non-game species, and that rely upon the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Management.

- Eliminating an impactful management tool without exhaustive research and scientific analysis sets a dangerous precedent regarding wildlife management in the state.
- If a change in regulations is requested, a complete and thorough rule-making process must be undertaken by the agency