Keep all trapping open in national forest & public lands!
Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Virus-free. www.avg.com
Dear Sir,
I have experienced the destruction caused by beaver overpopulation. Trapping is a safe and economical way to keep beaver populations under control as well as healthy. Please do not remove this tool that is useful in protecting our nations forests, and the roads and trails that make them accessible to our citizens.
Thank you
Lynwood Broaddus
25015 Mattaponi Trail
Milford Va 22514

Sent from my iPhone
I’m strictly against any kind of closure on public lands. The reasoning behind this closure is not an effective way to benefit the Coho Salmon. Studies have been done and it backs up my statement. As a citizen of the United States of America, I have a vested interest in all public land and it needs to be kept open for any and all legal activities.

Sincerely,

Steve McClintock
1072 E 1000 Ave
Shobonier, IL 62885
Do not stop the beaver trapping in Oregon
To whom it may concern,

Animal rights groups want you to incorrectly believe that a complete ban on beaver trapping on all National Forest and other public lands will singlehandedly and miraculously correct the multidimensional issues facing Coho Salmon populations in Oregon and across the west. I wish to firmly voice my respectful disagreement with the proposal to ban beaver trapping, using the support of scientific evidence, and recommend that you vote against banning beaver trapping in any area.

Beaver trapping is a regulated activity in Oregon which already allows for the scientific management of this keystone species by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

One only needs to look south to California to see that trapping bans will NOT correct Coho Salmon populations. For example, a 1998 ballot initiative in California banned leg-hold traps, conibear traps, and snares; thereby virtually eliminating the primary methods for beaver trapping. Yet, after 1998, scientific analysis of Coho Salmon populations across California reveals that their numbers did not miraculously or dramatically increase as a result of California's trap bans.

Therefore, scientific analysis of data available to date does NOT support an all-out beaver trapping ban to protect Coho Salmon populations. Please vote against banning beaver trapping, as trapping is already a regulated activity in the great state of Oregon. The bottom line is this: the push to ban beaver trapping is an animal rights initiative, not an environmental initiative.

Respectfully,

Mike Schoblaska
Dear Sir/Ma'am:

Please consider that trapping is the only viable and economical solution to controlling beaver populations, and all furbearer populations in general. I am adamantly opposed to any laws preventing the trapping of any furbearers not scientifically proven to be endangered.

I urge you to not consider any legislation that is not completely supported by scientific fact and study. Lobby groups and animal rights activists are constantly pushing for laws that are not in the best interest of healthy animal populations, nor the financial interests of governing bodies which would be forced to find alternative methods of doing the job trappers have done for centuries.

Before making your decisions, please ask yourself one thing. What is fundamentally wrong with our current methods and laws? If our present laws, limits and methods have provided healthy, sustainable populations, why do we need further restrictions? What is the benefit to all of our citizens by imposing more laws or restricting their use of government owned lands? Any legislation being considered must be grounded in the truth of the matter, and not emotionally charged.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Malvin Steger

Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone
As a taxpaying citizen I am very much opposed to closing any public lands or waters to trapping. The science does not support these closures, in fact it does the opposite. The Walt Disney version of wildlife management does not and never has worked.

Chance Thedford

Sent from my iPhone
Proper beaver management is crucial for any wildlife area. Trapping is the best and most humane way to manage beaver. I strongly feel that banning trapping of beaver in any area is a mistake.

Thank you,
Brandon Houtsma
Houtsmafurs@gmail.com

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
As an American taxpayer, and lover of nature, I strongly encourage you to REJECT the concept of banning trapping of beaver on public lands.

Whoever had the idea to stop Beaver trapping has never understood the damage they do.

Flooding of adjacent properties will cost millions if not billions. I own land which has a pond, it’s beautiful and filled with life- but beavers constantly move in and the first thing they do is plug the overflow pipe. If not cleared quickly, water would soon blow out the entire dam! In case you don’t know, after working for hours to clear the pipe... the next morning the beaver will have it plugged again. Beaver on my property are also working to build a dam on a narrow section in the front of my pond. Backing water onto the neighbors! If not remedied I would surely find myself in court.

The ONLY effective method of managing this animal is trapping.

Sincerely,

Tom Gustafson
Springfield, IL
I strongly disagree with doing away traping beaver in Oregon. Beaver do alot of damage to private and public lands. It would cost alot money to have taxpayers to hire a government trapper to trap them when trappers do it for free.
As a Citizen of the USA, I am opposed to regulations banning Braver Trapping on Federal Lands. I have a Right to utilize those Lands in accordance with all regulations. I may relocate to your state and wish to seek employment as a nuisance animal removal company.

Bobby Garrett
Liscened Trapper
Most people have grown so far from nature, that they don't have a clue how to live in the wild. I trap nuisance beaver for a living....in Michigan. Beaver will flood thousands of acres. I'll save a copy of this email so I can say I told you so, when the idiots cost the State millions. Meanwhile in Michigan we are tearing down our useless dams and coho obstructions.
Dear Sirs: I am in opposition of the closing of all beaver trapping in the aforementioned areas of Oregon, as this is Scientificly incorrect and will be detrimental to not only the beaver, but other wildlife as well, including valuable timber land. It will also be detrimental the the livestock growers and in no way will it affect the Salmon populaution that are supposedly being threatened. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Larry Kendall Murphy Sr.
40+ yrs a trapper and wildlife conservationist
Hello,

I received notice of the proposal to ban beaver trapping in the national forests and public land. I respectfully ask that you please do not approve the ban. Regulated and monitored trapping in these areas is reasonable but a complete ban is not in my opinion. As an Army combat veteran of Afghanistan, I came home to find a new passion for trapping and discovered how peaceful and therapeutic it was for me. I also learned about the benefits and necessity of trapping. To see more needless bans on an already struggling heritage upsets me and I kindly ask that you do not approve these bans.

Thank You,

Joe Zacherl
I understand you have been asked to stop all beaver trapping in parks, forests and other such lands to help salmon. In my mind the beaver dams would keep salmon from reaching their spawning waters. If anything you should encourage more trapping to help the salmon. Jim DeStephano
To whom it may concern:

I am writing because on June 11th you'll be meeting to discuss another closure of national Forest.

Oregon National Forest that the forefathers established is for all to use as far as I been raised. The forefathers didn't want it any other way. I don't know much about the Siuslaw area but I am sure that like most of Oregon forest the area has been logged many years ago by the very forefathers.

The access and logging there daily toll for that has been Oregon Industry.

My notes say there is many other areas closed on national forest land in Oregon. I am sure the forefathers of years ago was not working for those reasons.

The trappers do much less change to the environment than even the beavers. That is a matter of providing some basic needs to family and or friends.
Whether I like it or not, the fight will still continue. So it is now there position to decide what the people's position is. The people's position is on the multitude of voting powers. The work. Voting power, it is upon the house. That comes with the position.
To whom it may concern,

Animal rights groups want you to incorrectly believe that a complete ban on beaver trapping on all National Forest and other public lands will singlehandedly and miraculously correct the multidimensional issues facing Coho Salmon populations in Oregon and across the west. I wish to firmly voice my respectful disagreement with the proposal to ban beaver trapping, using the support of scientific evidence, and recommend that you vote against banning beaver trapping in any area.

Beaver trapping is a regulated activity in Oregon which already allows for the scientific management of this keystone species by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

One only needs to look south to California to see that trapping bans will NOT correct Coho Salmon populations. For example, a 1998 ballot initiative in California banned leg-hold traps, conibear traps, and snares; thereby virtually eliminating the primary methods for beaver trapping. Yet, after 1998, scientific analysis of Coho Salmon populations across California reveals that their numbers did not miraculously or dramatically increase as a result of California’s trap bans.

Therefore, scientific analysis of data available to date does NOT support an all-out beaver trapping ban to protect Coho Salmon populations. Please vote against banning beaver trapping, as trapping is already a regulated activity in the great state of Oregon. The bottom line is this: the push to ban beaver trapping is an animal rights initiative, not an environmental initiative.

Respectfully,
Please reject any proposals to eliminate beaver trapping on public lands. Beaver are a public resource that should remain available to the public.

Thank you!

Judd Brooks
Beaver trapping on federal lands is necessary to manage natural resources. Why not let trappers help manage these resources?

Sent from my iPhone
Dear representatives,
Any law making the trapping of beaver illegal will remove both a management tool for biologists and a way of living for many.
thank you,
Dan Blanton
To whom it may concern: I am writing in regards to theatter of closing all public lands to beaver trapping. I can assure that beaver are more abundant today that all of history. Beaver cause billions of dollars in damage and all public lands are owned by we the people of the United States. Many other states have tried to change the course of nature to provide for 1 species over another and all these experiments have failed. Please don't close the trapping of beaver on any public lands. Thank You Daniel Kvacik. trapperddk@gmail.com
Do not stop Beaver trapping! It is a renewable resource that has been managed to sustainable populations. No animal has been put on an endangered species list that is properly managed with regulated harvest. To stop all harvest will lead to Beaver literally eating themselves out of habitat and lead to more property damage.
From: Marvin Nissley <mlnissley@centurylink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver trapping. Federal land is owned by the people. Should remain open for trapping and hunting and for other outdoor activities.

Sent from my iPhone
F Farley <ffarley@cme.coop>
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:30 PM
Odfw.commission@state.or.us
no,no,no to oregon request to stop trapping beavers  fff,s.d.
To whom it may concern its come to my attention the state of Oregon is trying to stop beaver trapping on federal lands that's owned by the American people I strongly oppose this, and I'm sure with all of the facts known that this will not pass now or never Sam Austin NTA member
Please allow Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department to continue to manage beavers on Federal land as a resource to be utilised to the best and highest use. Banning trapping will relegate this furbearer to the role of pest, to be killed and thrown into the trash because the person killing it in warm weather to control damage cannot use such a poor pelt, and likely does not know how to do anything with it other than waste it. The North American Model of Wildlife Management was intentioned to manage without wasting. Thank you, Bonnie Deeds  A concerned citizen of the U.S.A.
From: Patrick Tormala <pwttormala@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver Trapping

I am opposed to the closing of beaver trapping in Oregon.

As a citizen I am also part owner of our lands which I have been using responsibly to trap beaver and other animals all my life.

Beaver trapping is part of my heritage and should not be banned by those who choose a different lifestyle. I don’t try to ban things they enjoy.

Sincerely,

Patrick Tormala
To whom it may concern
As a tax paying US citizen that own interest in all national property, BLM land, federal wild life refuges and all National grasslands, in the state of Oregon, taking trapping away is a ineffective means. It has been tried in numerous states and has not worked.

Sent from my iPad
Public lands are owned by the people of the United States.
Beaver trapping, hunting, and fishing is allowed on these lands.
I don't see how this would be detrimental to coho salmon.
This seems to be a way to take our rights away to use the land as it was intended.
Please reconsider this action.
Thankyou, Mike Evert.

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone
Get Outlook for Android
Please don’t stop the trapping of beavers!
Tommy Browning
To whom it may concern, this idea if closing beaver trapping in Oregon is utter stupidity. This is nothing more than a ploy to stop trapping as a sensible source of maintaining control on a rodent who cause millions of dollars in damage from ruining crops to damage to roadways and infrastructure. Using the coho salmon as an excuse is plain ignorance and as prove in the past has not deterred its existence. Trappers provide control on all fur bearing animals who would cause such a cry for help in a few short years because it wasn’t save to let your children out to play or for your family to enjoy our great outdoors. This bill needs to be abolished now!!!
I think you are making a mistake if you ban beaver trapping. They are a real nuisance to the trees and can infect the water they live in. Then when they reproduce without man as a predator they will expand their territory and get out of control. I don’t know if you have crops or not but I have seen beaver dams made out of cornstalks here in the Midwest. I would like to urge you to let beaver trapping continue.

Doug Coleman
Manhattan, Kansas

Sent from my iPhone
Trapping is a necessary tool to control crop and forest damage due to Beaver activity. It has been proven time and again that trapping and hunting, by licensed private citizens, is the most effective method to control nuisance and predator animal damage.

To stop trapping activity is to invite an unchecked increase in the population and damage caused by Beavers. Flooded fields, forest lowlands flooded and the timber there in lost. Animal habitat destroyed by flooding. Water supplies contaminated by a Guardia as a result of Beaver activity are just a few results of stopping the trapping of Beaver.

As a Trapper I am bias as to the subject of trapping Beaver, but I am the one that is out there to see the damage. I see the lost of land, the lost habitat to the Beaver activity. I see the dead trees.

Just look at your neighbor to the south. California banned trapping and sees an increase of people predator encounters. If you ban Beaver trapping, then you know that a ban of trapping will soon follow.

Respectfully submitted,

David J Murphy
235 Grant Street
Centerport, NY 11721
I am a tax payer and your proposal to stop trapping on these lands in short of criminal activity. Remember whose money bought these lands to preserve, and for all to use.
Reconsider your thoughts about beaver trapping please they reproduce quickly. It is part of our heritage and national lands belong to us all.
From: nvtrapper.dl <nvtrapper.dl@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please do not close down the beaver trapping in Oregon period. Thankyou

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
From: Christian Gerling <whiffet1959@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver trapping ban

Please reject this proposal on banning beaver trapping it is not good beaver need to be controlled or lots of environmental damage will occur let the fish and wildlife bureau set the seasons and quotas
Thanks Chris Gerling
Please do **NOT** stop beaver trapping in Oregon on all National Forests and other public lands. The Beaver and other furbears are a truly renewable natural resource. Furbears, like other manged wildlife species, thrive and are far more diverse today then 100 years ago. Trapper have a respect for the animals they harvest to ensure they do not become overpopulated which prevents the spread of disease. Trapping of beaver ensures that populations remain healthy and that all harvested animals are utilized and not wasted. Many trappers rely on the National Forests and other public lands to enjoy the outdoors by practicing the same acts that trappers have been doing for centuries.

Thank you for your time,
Caleb Gillis
Good afternoon.

I was disappointed to learn of movement suggesting beaver trapping could be closed within several locations inside your beautiful state. While I hope that I have heard fake news and this crusade is false, I would be foolish for not expressing my belief on the matter.

Please know I realize the unique position your office is in...the regulation AND propagation of both wildlife and fish. WE CAN find solutions for long-term sustainability through proper control and management and in ways that don’t revoke my (and your) right. The solution should not come from the closure (elimination) of the OUR space to trapping. Please leave no stone unturned when it comes to educating those making the decision. Regulation is acceptable, elimination is not.

Ryan Heckert | CEO
(P) 330.479.3958
(C) 330.204.6079
(F) 330.479.3959
ChooseTwi.com

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Hello,

Like ALL resources, beavers must be managed and beavers especially so since they multiply like rabbits and change the landscape so much.
When their dams break entire eco systems are altered.
In addition, the loss of life which occurs is multiply.
Further, Live-giving creeks are slowed to a trickle by beaver dams as they create their own habitat
American citizens own the resources and if beaver trapping is banned, then people like myself (wildlife control operators) will then STILL be trapping under permits and costing constituents extra taxes to do the same thing we do for free.

As much as it is hated and misunderstood, managing the beaver population is required.

Say no! To the request to ban trapping beavers!

Warm regards,

Mike Stallings
From: Yahoo <horsecreektrap@bellsouth.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:54 AM  
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us  
Subject: Beaver trapping. I am against any closure to beaver trapping on any federally owned land.
Hello- All american taxpayers have a vested interest in public lands. I urge you to vote AGAINST the prohibition of beaver trapping in Oregon. Trappers provide a useful service in removing beavers that would otherwise cost tax dollars to remove and control populations.

Respectfully,

michael schmidt, freedom wi

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom it May Concern:

Beaver Trapping ventures founded this country. In large why Oregon ever became a state of this glorious union. Without modern-day regulated trapping, the beaver population as you know it in the state of Oregon or any other state will boom creating an unhealthy beaver population destined for disease and miserable deaths. More importantly the folks that have initiated these unpresidented restrictions will end up paying thousands of dollars to control the out of control/balance beaver population. Once populations exceed holding limits beaver will become transients relocating on every creek pond and lake in the state. The damage they cause in flooding of homes, roads etc., the cutting of precious expensive ornamental trees will be monumental. The folks who proposed the restrictions on legal ethical trapping will be the first to cry out for help. Trapping is a traditional God given right. You do not want to mess with Mother Nature! She along with her furry little friends will make you wish otherwise.

Regards,
American Trapper
Tad Brown
To whom it may concern:

This is another circumstance that science is being tossed aside, because of people's compassion towards animals. I understand, and I love to see animals in the wild myself. If you let beaver populations go unchecked, they will expand across private and public lands. They will build dams stopping water flow, creating disease carrying mosquito breeding areas, flooding properties, and destroying trees, roads and drainages. Look at the other states that have stopped beaver trapping and the problems that you will face if you stop managing beaver populations by public trappers. If you stop beaver trapping by seasoned trappers the knowledge they have acquired will be lost to others forever. You can stop trapping by the public, but you will still have to trap beavers and kill beavers, whether by damage permits or government employees. The cost will affect your budget, taking away from other programs. You will have to focus on the problem you have created for yourself and others. Once you stop beaver trapping by public trappers you will be opening pandora's box.

Thank you for your time;

Concerned Citizen
From: kb3540 <kb3540@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:20 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver trapping

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
I am opposed to the idea of closure of trapping in National Forest areas. Trapping has proved to be an effective method of population control of wildlife and should continue to be used as such. As a tax payer and voter I will continue to monitor how this matter is handled. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Ron Columb 11 Brigham St., Laconia, NH 03246
As a Disabled veteran and stakeholder in Federal Lands, I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE any plan to close or limit Beaver Trapping in America's Public Lands. While I support Science Based Conservation, a study published by Madison, Kuzishchin, and Stanford on Steamer 1, 2016 (ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5012414) PROVED that Beaver ponds are detrimental to some riparian areas and have negative affects on most fisheries. Once Again, IAm VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO CLOSING OR LIMITING BEAVER TRAPPING IN FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS IN OREGON.
Beaver trapping should be allowed as long as seasons are followed.
From: Terry Broemmelsick <tbroem@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: DON'T OUTLAW Beaver trapping

Sent from my iPhone
From: acwknutson@wctatel.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: beaver trapping

I oppose the stopping of beaver trapping. Trapping is a very important tool in wildlife management. I strongly oppose banning the trapping of beaver on all land, private and public owned.
They have no right to take away our right to trap as this was one of the main things out country was founded on!

_Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone_
The way West was the demand and the ultimate prosperity to our founding brave Men and Women to ultimately put Oregon in business. Not to mention the safety issues of the damage Beaver can cause to water ways for the folks below and the potential destruction the Beaver can do. To only exterminate when there is a problem is not a solution, It's just another way the Government can control our rights as an American citizen.
To stop Beaver trapping will be a huge mistake and you will see an over run like never before that you do not want to happen.
Respectfully,

Greg Parks
Owner/President
BioSeal, LLC
Ph: 406-222-1331
Cell: 406-223-3381
Email: biosealgreg@gmail.com
To whom it may concern, It has come to my attention that there is a proposal to stop trapping of beaver in federally owned properties in the state of Oregon. This letter is a message against this proposal. Thank You, Dan Enke
As a wildlife management tool trapping should be allowed.

Sent from my iPhone
The proposed end of trapping lands for beaver or any other animal that needs conservation control would be an unconstitutional decision.

Sent from my iPhone
I understand Beaver trapping is now under assault on our federal lands. Why? Will you then use our tax dollars to hire it out? This is absurd!

Mark Steck
Another way of life taken away by some organization or people with no knowledge of what the ask for. Fur harvest is some peoples way of life. And if regulated by game and fish it is ok and a way to control population of the beaver. But as most game and fish depts.. you’ll cave, Soon they will take something away you like. Fishing, hunting, hiking , because you may step on a frog, use some common sense, stop taking away from sportsman and outdoors man. Thank you  Robert Kauska
I fully support ending the trapping of beavers in the state of Oregon. This is long overdue and in the times of Covid 19 it is clear having healthy sustainable wildlife populations is more important than ever.

Please end the trapping now.

Stephen capra

Sent from my iPhone
It was certainly be ironic to foolishly consider closing beaver trapping in Oregon, as it was the very reason that the state was settled so early in the U.S. history.

Recent case histories shows multiple instances that when recreational (beaver) trapping is banned, the effort doesn’t go away, but simply shifts to public employees doing the same duty at taxpayer expense to ensure that valuable forests (another of Oregon’s natural resources) are not destroyed, roads flooded and other societal damage does not continue to incur.

The extremely common animal provides environmentally renewable and durable fur, edible meat, leather from the tail, decorative skulls & teeth and valuable glands used for a variety of contemporary products.

John Hageman - Retired Biology Field Station Manager, The Ohio State University
Freelance Outdoor Media - Member- Outdoor Writers of Ohio, Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers
13565 Ash Street
Weston, Ohio 43569

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
I urge you to reject a proposal that would halt beaver trapping on National Forests.

I am not a trapper, not did I live anywhere close to any National Forest. But I strongly disagree with management decisions not based on science. I'm confident that the beaver harvests are well regulated and provide for the utilization of the beaver resource at a very responsible level.

Enough barriers already exist to accessing the public lands of our nation. Further limiting resource utilization won't help the beavers or the forest or the public's understanding of why these special forests are set aside to begin with.

Daniel R Rider
Licensed Professional Forester, MD #382
5560 Dog Kennel Road
Rhodesdale, MD 21659
410-440-0647
To whom it may concern,
The resolution regarding Beaver trapping on Public lands coming up soon would not be a Good idea I believe. Measures like these are way too broad and always seem to have to have Amendments made to them. Salmon definitely need help but Beavers can cause a lot of problems at times as well. Perhaps looking at certain areas of concern would be Better as the amount of Public land is Quite large.
Thank You for doing all of the Great work you have done. John Higbee
I've heard that the state has been presented the request to close public land to beaver trapping. As a trapper and public land user I strongly urge you to decline the request and keep public land open!

Sincerely,
Nathaniel w Smith
Good afternoon. It’s has come that there is legislation proposed to stop all beaver trapping on public lands and park lands. These lands are part of my ownership as a tax paying US citizen and I’m opposed to any legislation that prevents me from beaver trapping. This has been tried in other areas with negative results.

Thank you for your time
Shawn Linendoll
Please do NOT close beaver trapping on federal and or public land that land is opened for everyone. Thank you.
Brian Cogill 416 Moulton hill rd Parsonsfield. Me 04047.
I am opposed to the bill being pushed to ban beaver trapping on public lands in Oregon. Science doesn't support this.
Please don't ban beaver trapping
Thanks for listening
Marvin Augustin

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Dear Odfw,

I am writing to support this closure of trapping for beaver. Beaver are key to clean abundant water. This is an excellent move.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Connie Poten

--
Constance J. Poten
4175 Rattlesnake Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
406-549-4647
Beaver trapping is a vital tool in promoting wildlife, not only healthy beaver populations but habitat. Stopping this tool is definitely a step backwards in management. It seems to be a case of emotion and misunderstanding rather than proven wildlife science. Please support proper wildlife management.
If you do outlaw all trapping of beaver you will have other major issues. Constant flooding in lower areas and over population to cause disease and death, It will cause a chain reaction. There is no way that they are endangered and trapping will help to keep population regulated. Or to help relocate beavers to other areas. You need to really think about all things that can happen from the effect of no trapping. Thanks for listening.
From: Brian Hugo <bbbhugo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:41 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver trapping

Trapping is a most necessary tool to control the population of these wonderful animals. Otherwise they can be terribly destructive. Please keep trapping available as a tool to promote healthy beaver populations. People will resort to other means of controlling them that can be terribly dangerous to the environment.

Regards,
Brian Hugo

Sent from my iPhone
Sir/Ma’am,

Please do not ban beaver trapping in Oregon.

It sets a bad precedent when we base our laws solely on emotion.

Best practices are scientifically based and truly help all species.

Thanks you,

Randall Backhaus
To whom it may concern,

I recently found out that a suggestion has been made to stop beaver trapping in all National Forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, National Monuments, Federal Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and National Grasslands in the state of Oregon, for the benefit of Coho Salmon.

The science does not support such action.

I for one love to see beaver in the wild, they are fascinating animals. However, like all wildlife they need to be managed properly. Trapping is an effective tool in the management arsenal. Left alone, beaver populations cycle wildly, like most other animals. Beaver need to be managed so they do not negatively affect other wildlife and habitat...for example flooding too much lowland, felling too many trees, or flooding roads and buildings, etc.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I trust that you will stand against the irrational proposal to stop beaver trapping.

Sincerely,

John Turpin
From: Mark Ross <ross outfitter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver trapping closure

Please don’t stop beaver trapping in Oregon and let the game and fish department do there management practices

Mark Ross
Man what a disastrous move on stopping beaver trapping. If we don’t control the population then in a very short time we will be sorry. Please don’t pass this type legislation. Thanks David Coleman
Commissioners,

Beaver trapping is a necessary tool to manage wildlife, and as a trapper who enjoys the sport, fur, and meat of this animal closing trapping down is the wrong decision.

Kenneth W. Lehman

It's okay to print this email. Paper is a renewable and recyclable resource. The forest products industry plants more than 1.7 million trees per day. Thanks to responsible forest management, we have more trees in America today than we had 100 years ago.
Wanted to voice my opinion on the closure of beaver trapping on public lands in Oregon. I am strongly against the closure. Evidence shows that the closure will not benefit salmon. Thank you, william sherwood
Sent from my iPhone
I urge you, do not fail the American people and Oregon residents. Do not allow decades of proven management principles to be thrown away because of the emotional response a small percentage of people have to trapping.

It's time to stop allowing emotions to run our resources.

Doug Stanley

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Roxann B Borisch

From: mike s <pzpf6d@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver

Sent from my iPhone
keep our outdoor heritage of trapping alive
From: Dirk Shearer - Wildlife Control <shearerdirk@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Mr Wahl

Mr Wahl,

It has come to my attention that it is being suggested that beaver trapping be closed on all National Forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, National Monuments, Federal Wildlife Refuges, National Parks and National Grasslands in the state of Oregon, for the benefit of Coho Salmon.

Data from the results of similar management tactics in other states reveal **this is ineffective**. If there is not supporting scientific proof that this an effective means of addressing the Coho salmon issue, then it is simply a feel good measure pushed by politics, and wildlife management should be based in science.

Furthermore, banning beaver trapping on these lands may lead to unforeseen consequences, such as increased forest damage, flooding, and water degradation of certain areas due to silt build up and sudden release or surges due to beaver dams bursting. As populations rise, excess beaver will attempt to relocate and may end up damaging private property, forests, pastures, cropland, and vineyards.

As a U.S. citizen owning an interest in all National properties, I am against this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dirk E. Shearer, President
The Wildlife Control Company, Inc.
PO Box 3152 Dublin OH 43016 614-870-8727
shearerdirk@aol.com
www.YourOhioWildlifePro.com

(Note: Sent to all Commissioners)
It has recently came to my attention that there is a petition to ban beaver trapping statewide in Oregon.

It's my position to oppose this petition and all other anti trapping petitions that have no scientific basis behind them. Emotions don't have a valid place in wildlife management. As you already know yourself there is a need to manage our wildlife populations across the state. Trapping is a time proven and viable means to doing exactly this, management. If left unchecked beaver can and will cause thousands of dollars in damage to both public and private property.

Please take this attack on trapping seriously. We need to keep this as a management tool.

Thank you,

Charles Holland

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
My name is Daniel Cornell and my trap brand # is 5475x. I was born in Newberg Oregon and have enjoyed trapping since my youth. Checking traps before and after school and sometimes the bus would drop me off at the pond i had traps at. I would like to beg PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SUISLAW Naional forest to any kind of trapping,especially beaver. I would love to see ODFW work with the Oregon Trappers Association on proper conservation. Also better research on the benefits of Trapping. Please do not allow the Anti trapping enteties to do what they did to washington. Do Not Take our Trapping right PLEASE and THANK YOU. Sincerly Daniel E Cornell.
Commission Members: My name is Dirk W. Olsen and I reside in Albany, Oregon. I have been a licensed trapper since 1971- my brand id # 9110. I am writing this letter to oppose the proposal to stop all beaver trapping in the Siuslaw National Forest. As a lifelong trapper I have seen the damage that beaver can cause. A few years ago I trapped and removed several beaver that had plugged a culvert that had backed up and destroyed a couple of hundred yards of railroad bed. This was near Mill City. The railroad official estimated that the damage would cost $750,000 to repair. Beaver trappers play an important role in keeping beaver numbers in check and I might add at a zero cost to taxpayers. It is well known that the Siuslaw National Forest has an abundant supply of beavers and with the current low fur value there is no reason to pass any rules or regulation that would prevent the trapping of them. Trappers play a vital role in keeping furbearer numbers in check. Biologists in your organization monitor populations of furbearers on a regular basis. We all love our wildlife but this proposed regulation has not merit to be considered. Thank you- Dirk W. Olsen, 1037 North Albany Road, Albany, OR 97321
Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this letter of support for beaver protections on public lands.

Thank you,
Bob Rees, Executive Director
NW Guides and Anglers Association
(503) 812-9036
To: The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Re: Implementing Beaver Protective Action on Public Lands

May 18, 2020

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

NW Guides and Anglers Association
P.O. Box 3208
Clackamas, OR 97015

Dear Chair Wahl and Commissioners,

As you consider protective action for beavers in regards to trapping on public lands, please consider the scientific evidence of the benefits beavers provide in creating critical coho habitat for one of Oregon’s most imperiled species.

Commissioners likely already know the importance of beavers to the freshwater life history of coho salmon and other salmonids. What commissioners may not know is that many, if not most of Oregon’s coho systems fail to meet the minimum temperature standards for the spawning and rearing of wild salmonids. We’ve lost a tremendous amount of function across our public and private landscapes and bringing them back to functionality relies on mimicking a more natural landscape that these fish evolved in.

I feel that not just the sportfishing community believes this is an important and overdue step for the commission to take, but if the general public had an idea that beaver trapping was happening on public lands, especially given their proven record of benefit, they too would support protective measures for this species. Thank you for your dedication to Oregon’s natural resources.

Bob Rees

Bob Rees, Executive Director
NW Guides and Anglers Association
(503) 812-9036
brees@pacifier.com
Subject: FW: Beaver trapping

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim Andrews <j3andrews@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:27 PM
To: Curt.Melcher@state.or.us
Subject: Beaver trapping

Director Melcher,

Please protect our trapping heritage in the beaver state. We cannot allow environmental groups to continue to erode sportsman’s activities. Please represent the hunters and anglers of Oregon and oppose this movement to erode our rights as sportsmen.

Jim Andrews
Tangent, Oregon
Dear Commission Members and ODFW Staff,

I’ve attached my comments on the furbearer rules and restrictions for the 2020-2022 season. My focus is on maintaining a toolkit to address beaver/human conflicts when they come up, while valuing beaver and their works in Oregon’s federally managed public lands.

Thank you for the work you do,

Jakob

-----
Jakob Shockey
(541) 761-3312
contact@beaverstatewildlife.com
www.beaverstatewildlife.com
May 18, 2020

Chair Mary Wahl  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Members  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

RE: Furbearer rule and restrictions for the 2020-2022 season

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I recently spent eight hours clearing a beaver dam from two, 5' diameter culverts—using a potato rake and a T post. As I’m sure you are aware, beaver and people sometimes have a difference of opinion on how water and streamside trees should be managed. This family of beaver had identified these culverts in a road-base as two holes in an otherwise perfectly serviceable dam. When I showed up, these holes had been patched, the floodplain was reconnected and some seven acres of fescue crop were underwater.

As our fellow ecosystem engineer, beaver and their works can disrupt our own engineered landscape of culverts and infrastructure, riverfront houses and working lands. Because they live in territorial, familial colonies, trapping out the offending beavers (either lethally or for relocation) often results in a new colony showing up to the “cleaned out” habitat—sometimes within a couple weeks. Frustrated landowners and land managers, public works departments and private industry struggle to get off this treadmill of beaver removal and resentment for our state animal builds.

As the owner of Beaver State Wildlife Solutions, I’ve been helping people to stabilize beaver complications throughout Oregon for the past six years. I am writing you from that perspective. Some of my clients are motivated by this animal’s welfare, some by the
habitat it builds, and some are just ready to “call a truce.” As a career military officer once explained to me, he was ready to work with the resident colony rather than trapping again and waiting for a new colony to show up unpredictably—as this beaver family was “the enemy I know, versus the enemy I don’t know.”

I am aware of the proposal before you to close specific federally managed public lands to beaver trapping in interest of the habitat resiliency and water security beaver create. As a rural Oregonian, I am often reluctant to promote anything that seems to “take away a tool in my toolbox.” That said, I can testify that the vast majority of beaver conflicts can be solved with a little human ingenuity and without need for trapping. Toward that end, it is vital that ODFW support such non-lethal tools for managing the flooding issues beaver sometimes cause such as “pond-levelers” and culvert protection systems.

I commend the strides ODFW has made in recent months toward developing Best Management Practices for the use of these long-term, proven strategies toward managing beaver in place. If we have any chance of seeing the widespread restoration of hydrologically and ecologically healthy aquatic systems across our state that beaver can provide, we need to get away from trapping as the easy solution. This petition proposes an argument for the overwhelming value of live beaver on public lands—to Oregonians and Oregon. It can be frustrating to lose tools to regulations and rule-making, but in this case we already have better tools for addressing where beaver activity disagrees with human activity. In my opinion, concerns that this proposal would result in excess beaver damage need not weigh heavily in the balance as you consider this petition.

Jakob Shockey, owner
Beaver State Wildlife Solutions LLC

cc: Senator Jeff Golden, Representative Pam Marsh

ODFW: Curt Melcher, Shannon Hurn, Doug Cottam, Ed Bowles, Bruce McIntosh, Tom Stahl, Greg Apke, Derek Broman, Renee Coxen, Brian Bangs

NOAA: Scott Rumsey, Kim Kratz, Irma Lagomarsino, Chuck Wheeler

USFWS: Paul Henson, Chris Allen
Attached is a memo that I would like to be taken into consideration regarding the petition to eliminate trapping on the Siuslaw National Forest. Thank you.
May 18, 2020

TO: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
FROM: John Williams, Trapper #0185X
SUBJ: Hearing on June 11 and 12, 2020 regarding Siuslaw National Forest Beaver Trapping

This memo is respectfully submitted in opposition to the petition which has been submitted to the Commission regarding elimination of all beaver trapping in the Siuslaw National Forest. There is no scientific data or evidence to suggest that this action is necessary or warranted. This is an effort by the petitioners to eliminate trapping on a piecemeal basis throughout the state. As a lifetime, responsible trapper I strongly object to this attempted encroachment on outdoor recreational opportunities and livelihoods.

Thank you for your consideration.
For your consideration, please see the attached letter.

--

Tere O'Rourke
pronouns: she/they
Oregon Coast Branch Chief
Roseburg, OR
541-957-3385
Oregon/Washington Coastal Area Office
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce

www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon, 97302

Dear Chairperson Wahl and Fish and Wildlife Commission members,

I am writing to offer information and support regarding beavers and their role in the recovery of threatened Oregon Coast (OC) coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) within the boundaries of the Siuslaw National Forest. As you know, NOAA Fisheries mission includes “the recovery and conservation of protected resources, and healthy ecosystems—all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management.” Much progress has been made towards recovery of the OC coho salmon. We want the positive trajectory to continue.

We completed the Final Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for OC coho salmon (Recovery Plan) in 2016. The Recovery Plan lists key implementation actions - including addressing the role of beavers. Reestablishing beavers and their habitat facilitates recovery of the OC coho salmon and the restoration of watershed health. Beaver dams create ecosystems for OC coho salmon that benefit juvenile survival and therefore, population and species recovery.

We recognize human/beaver conflicts occur. We work with agencies, such as Wildlife Services and Oregon Department of Transportation, to address beaver conflicts. We encourage the exploration and development of non-lethal removal of beavers with our State and Federal partners. In order to promote understanding of the important role of beavers, we are creating educational materials, partnering with State and Federal agencies, and working with private landowners. At the same time, we recognize lethal removal is sometimes the only option.
A letter written to the Commission recognizing the critical nature beavers play in restoration was sent by Dr. Christopher Jordan, NOAA Fisheries Science Center on November 25, 2019. The Oregon Coast Branch of NOAA Fisheries also recognizes the importance of beavers in promoting the recovery of the OC coho salmon. The Siuslaw National Forest has focused on aquatic restoration efforts. We support future restoration partnerships and restoration efforts that facilitate OC coho salmon recovery including the important maintenance and increase of the beaver population.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-957-3385 or therese.orourke@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tere O’Rourke
Oregon Coast Branch Chief
Oregon Washington Coastal Office
From: morgan olson <morganroyolson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 12:25 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Trapping Restrictions - Siuslaw National Forest

To Whom It May Concern,
I'm writing this email for the benefit of the ODFW Commissioners regarding proposed trapping restrictions on the Siuslaw National Forest. I urge the Commission to strongly appose any additional restrictions on trapping in the state of Oregon. Every restriction that is put in place reduces the opportunity for folks to trap. Trapping is an effective tool for management as well as recreation. There is "0" data that suggest that this trapping restriction is needed. Please do not further restrict trapping in the state of Oregon.

Thank you,
Morgan Olson
-----Original Message-----
From: Brandy James <brazjames@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:51 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Siuslaw Beaver Trapping Closure

To Whom it may concern, the process of restricting or stopping trapping, without the science to back it up is a poor way to manage wildlife. Virtually the only data received on many species is from trapping. The act of taking a use of a national forest from a user group that is already heavily regulated, seems unreasonable. For what it is worth, the problem is that Oregon’s biggest cat is hunting Oregon’s biggest rodent, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and the decline of the beaver population follows the increase of the cougar population. Regulated hunting, fishing and trapping have never resulted in decimation of a species. There is not a big enough demand in the price of beaver pelts to create enough pressure that it would affect the overall health of the population. Adding to the list of areas that are closed to trapping is not going to help or solve this problem, it is only going to restrict a lawful, regulated use of public ground from one of many forest user groups.

Thank You,
Brandy S James
Sent from my iPhone
To Whom it May Concern

5-10-2020

This letter is in regard to the petition to stop all beaver trapping in the Siuslaw National Forest. I was an Oregon trapper until three years ago, I purchased a home in Golding Alaska (love fishing the Kenai River.) My new wife married 3-14-2019 decided she wants to trap as she tagged along with me until I changed my residency. So she passed her trapping regulated test 100%.

Back to the beaver trapping issue. My father allowed me to trap the sawmill ponds in Molalla when I was 8 years old 1950. Muskrats were abundant and making money for me (trapping) was a real jump start as I've been trapping ever since (70 years.) When I tapped the Mt. Hood National forest beaver & otter was closed there. It still is. Only trapped coyotes & bobcat. The closed seasons in Mt. Hood made absolutely no benefit for those animals in increasing their numbers. They all have only a limited life span. The predators & disease keep them at a normal level. The trouble with not allowing a percentage of harvest regulated...
Now I'm told the government hunter/Trapper had the job of killing problem animals. I know one of these individuals; they're never brought out of the woods destroyed only to rot. Steens Mountain, Blue Mountains out of Medford, are two of the three.

When I had hounds (for 10 years) 1970 to 1980 it was a valuable experience to understand that aspect of hunting these animals (Also known) Now what is happening many game are shot with their calls by deer & elk hunters, visibly active during the day as Boar are quite nocturnal and hunters using during the days to stay away from them. Also in those times it could be deemed a trophy or not. Simply walk away for another chase give it another day to grow or lead not to like climbing a tree for someone to show up and believe they did get educated to that.

One last item is the late deer hunt in November here in the White River Unit. Also the Hood Unit, this is a must stop hunt. Actually its not a hunt just a murder to these deer as the bucks are rutting and only look for does (do not rub or react to
Vehicles: I bet virtually everyone shot is from the vehicle!!! The population of bighorn is really poor—lab-the shed horn pic shows what a chore, unbelievable poor. Do the right thing--stop--Cancel this late hunt issue stage in September when they’re edible table fare.

I’d like to go on, but I wonder if you read your attention this far.

Thank you for your attention to the Beaver trapping issue.

Mary Schenck
359 Oak Park, N.
Wanetilla, OR 97063
541-544-3334
Winter

(34133 Poppywood St
Seldovia, AK 99669

Cell 971-227-1120

LIFE MEMBER

ODFW Mailroom
MAY 13 2020

Received

Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation
NRA
EANAUS
OHA
GRAND SLAM CLUB
Boone & Crockett Club
SCI
Oregon Trappers Assoc.
Received
MAR 3, 2020
ODFW Mailroom

Intersection
508 4th Avenue SE

399 Oak Park Ln.
Cary Schoenborn

PORTLAND OR 97232

11 MAY 2020 9:42 A.M.
FYI

From: Brad Boudreau <wildcountryfurs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:34 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Opposed to Siuslaw beaver trapping ban proposal

Dear Commission,
I am a beaver trapper and actually have trapped some beaver in and around the area that this proposal will impact. This proposed change is unnecessary and will greatly reduce the area that is available for me to trap. I don't trap many and the ones I do are utilized for the fur, castor, skulls for science classes, meat for coyote trapping bait, etc.
This proposal is unwarranted and unduly infringes on my local recreational opportunities, please dismiss this proposal and leave this resource open to me and my fellow trappers to enjoy and maintain.

Sincerely,
Brad Boudreau
Grand Ronde, OR
From: Bob Hughes <hughes_bob@amniosopes.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Hiram Li <hiraml@comcast.net>; Kaufmann, Philip Robert <kaufmphi@oregonstate.edu>; Kirk Schroeder <Kirk.Schroeder@oregonstate.edu>; Thom Whittier <thom.whittier@gmail.com>; DOMINICK@GEOSINSTITUTE.ORG; Rich Nawa <rich@kswild.org>; Jon Rhodes <jjiragwa@spiritone.com>; Gregg Lomnicky <glomnicky@comcast.net>; Gerth, Bill <william.gerth@oregonstate.edu>; Comeleo, Randy <Comeleo.Randy@epa.gov>; hank lavigne <hank_fish@earthlink.net>; Paul Scheerer <paul.scheerer@gmail.com>; Wildman, Randall <randy.wildman@oregonstate.edu>; Dunham, Jason <jdunham@usgs.gov>; Dunham, Susie <susie.dunham@oregonstate.edu>; Nancy Molina <n.molina@comcast.net>; Yangdong Pan <bwyp@pdx.edu>; Sandy Bryce <brycepad@gmail.com>; Hill, Ryan A. <ryan.hill29@gmail.com>; Bob Danehy <danehy@catchmentae.com>
Cc: Beschta, Robert <robert.beschta@oregonstate.edu>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Help the Beaver!

See below. Please sign on & pass on.

Dear Researcher:

Within a couple of weeks, a proposal will be presented to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission requesting that beaver trapping/hunting cease on federal lands in the state (trapping regulations on private lands would not be affected). That request will also include several appendices: (1) proposed rule amendments pertaining to trapping/hunting of beaver on federal lands, (2) a list of strategic species in Oregon's Conservation Strategy that rely on beaver-created habitat, (3) photographic examples of changes in riparian and aquatic habitats when beaver re-establish along stream systems, and (4) an extended bibliography of studies related to beaver and the ecosystem benefits they generate.

In addition, a "science letter" will be concurrently submitted in support of the proposal. That letter is attached for your perusal and we are asking if you would be willing to be a cosigner. If yes, we need the following information from you by the 15th of this month:

Full name, MS or PhD (as applicable)

Job Title, retired (as applicable)

Department

Institutional affiliation

City, Oregon
If you know of another Oregon researcher/academic that might be interested in signing, please feel free to share this request with them.

Again, we will need to hear from you by the 15th of May to have you included as a co-signer. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us.

Thanks for your consideration,

Bob Beschta  <robert.beschta@oregonstate.edu>

Boone Kauffman  <boone.kauffman@oregonstate.edu>

---

Robert M. Hughes  
President, Stone Ridge Home Owners Association  
Fellow, American Fisheries Society  
Fellow, Society for Freshwater Science

"We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you?"  
(Greta Thunberg, UN General Assembly, September 2019)

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I'm writing to express my concern over the upcoming fur-bearing hearing over beaver trapping in the Siuslaw National Forest. The anti-trapping groups want to stop trapping—they have already taken more away from us than should be allowed and I would hope that you (ODFW) would stand behind the trappers, and not stop anymore trapping in national forests in Oregon. There is a lack of study's and research done in that area to say that trapping has impacted the beaver population to the point that you would need to stop trapping. Thank you for your time and I'm hopeful that ODFW would have the best interest in the trappers of Oregon and not the anti-trapping groups that just want to take away more rights from us little by little.
FW: closing siuslaw forest to beaver trapping

From: THEODOR WEIS <weis448@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 12:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: closing siuslaw forest to beaver trapping
Importance: Low

Why? A good share of Oregon is already closed to Beaver trapping. When populations were low the areas may have needed it. As far as I can gather there has been little or no studies done to find out if these closures have helped.

Now some people that are totally against any trapping are trying to get another area closed, to Beaver this time. Have there been any ODFW studies on whether this is needed? I would again guess not.

At one time Beaver were in decline. ODFW instituted regulations to improve Beaver populations state wide. In the areas that one can trap Beaver those regulations work well. In some areas to well. Do you have any studies on whether these closures have improved things for the Beaver or habitat in the closed areas. If the idea is more habitat for salmon and steelhead again it is probably wasted time as the wild fish populations are in decline more for other reasons then Beaver dams not there.

Now in some areas Beaver are considered "predatory" on private property. Another thing that lets Beaver population over expand is that they have little value for fur. I trap but the only Beaver I catch are ones that land owner want gone.

Closing the Siuslaw is wasted time, I doubt there are very many Beaver taken there and the ones that are more then likely are causing problems. Think about it a bit. The only reason this is getting to your table is that the people that put it there are chipping away at trapping and will continue to do so until one of the best management tools you have is gone like in our california and Washington.

Sincerely

Theodore L. Weis
CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA, AND SIUSLAWS INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

1245 Fulton Avenue – Coos Bay, OR 97420
Telephone: (541) 888-9577 Toll Free 1-888-280-0726 Fax: (541) 888-2853

ODFW Mailroom

MAY 11 2020

April 30, 2020

Received

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302,

Re: Support for Restrictions on the Hunting and Trapping of Beaver on Siuslaw National Forest Lands

To Whom It May Concern:

The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI or Tribe) supports the Siuslaw National Forest in the restricting of the hunting and trapping of beaver on National Forest Lands.

Much of the Siuslaw National Forest Lands are within the Ancestral Territory of CTCLUSI and once flourished with American Beaver (Castor canadensis). Beaver are a culturally significant species to the Tribe and have been since time immemorial. It has been memorialized in the Tribe’s logo and flag, attesting to its importance to the Tribe’s culture.

Unfortunately, due to historic unsustainable harvesting and other practices, beaver populations are nowhere near their historic numbers. Additionally, to date, they are still regularly being trapped in the State of Oregon, and are considered a “nuisance” species by some government agency regulations. Scientific research has shown that beavers provide very critical ecosystem services that benefit multiple species, including salmon, which are also species of cultural significance to the Tribe.

From the Tribal Government’s perspective, it is vital for us to support the Siuslaw National Forest in their efforts to help beaver populations to rebound on National Forest Lands. The Tribe considers both the US Forest Service and the Siuslaw National Forest as integral partners in the restoration of the Tribe’s Ancestral Territory. The Department of Culture and Natural Resources at CTCLUSI strongly supports the Siuslaw National Forest’s proposed restrictions on beaver hunting and trapping as it will help to return critical ecosystem services, restore healthy ecosystems, and aid in the recovery of salmon.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Roselynn Lwena, PhD, Director of Culture and Natural Resources at rtlwena@ctclusi.org or on her cell (541) 294-9944.

Respectfully,

Alexis Barry
Chief Executive Officer
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
Commission Members and ODFW staff:

I have attached my comments on the furbearer rules and restrictions for the 2020-2022 season. My focus is on the potential benefit to ESA-listed Coho Salmon that can result from increased numbers of beaver ponds, which form "high quality rearing habitat" for juvenile Coho Salmon.

I am available if you have any questions or requests.

Thank you.

Rob Walton
The Beaver Coalition
THE BEAVER COALITION

April 17, 2020

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

RE:  Furbearer rule and restrictions for the 2020-2022 season
Support for beaver-based habitat restoration to support Endangered Species Act-listed
Coho Salmon recovery

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Beaver dams and beaver ponds provide many important benefits including high-quality rearing
habitat for Coho Salmon, ground water recharge, mitigating the effects of drought, replenishing
wetlands, and providing habitat for other species. One of the key reasons The Beaver Coalition is
promoting beaver-based habitat restoration is to support the recovery of Oregon Coast (OC)
Coho Salmon.

The lack of high quality over-wintering habitat for juvenile coho was identified as the primary
limiting factor for the recovery of OC Coho Salmon. Both the State’s Oregon Coast Coho
Conservation Plan (2007) and NOAA Fisheries’ Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon
(2016) acknowledge this, and as you see in the attached relevant excerpts from these plans, they
both call for more beaver dams and beaver ponds to support the conservation and recovery of
ESA-listed Oregon Coast Coho Salmon.

I am writing to encourage the Commission and ODFW to aggressively implement actions that
are identified in the State and Federal Plans for OC Coho Salmon. Both relate the benefits that
beaver dams and beaver ponds provide for Coho Salmon. These actions could be a combination
of voluntary and regulatory and could include restrictions on trapping of beaver on public lands
in key areas within the designated critical habitat of OC Coho Salmon.

After working more than 30 years on ESA-listed salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest, and
as the primary author of NOAA’s OC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan, I have concluded that the
single most cost-effective, long-term, sustainable strategy to recover and de-list Oregon
Coast Coho Salmon would be for the State of Oregon to take steps to reduce the number of
beaver killed in the range of OC Coho Salmon. With careful planning, I am convinced that
this strategy can be implemented on public lands quickly and efficiently and on private lands
with minimal or no burden on landowners.
The Beaver Coalition was founded this year to help empower humans to partner with beaver through education, science, advocacy, and the use of process-based restoration to support ecological and biological conservation and restoration. We are committed to supporting beaver-based habitat restoration with willing landowners, public and private. Please let me know if I can answer questions or be of any assistance on this matter.

Robert Walton, co-founder of The Beaver Coalition
7938 SE 35th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

Attachment

cc: ODFW: Curt Melcher, Shannon Hurn, Doug Cottam, Ed Bowles, Bruce McIntosh, Tom Stahl, Derek Broman, Renee Coxen, Brian Bangs

NOAA: Scott Rumsey, Kim Kratz, Irma Lagomarsino, Chuck Wheeler

USFWS: Paul Henson, Chris Allen
Attachment: Excerpts from the State and Federal Plans for OC Coho Salmon

From the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan
(https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/coastal_coho/final/CohoPlan.pdf)

➢ High quality over-wintering habitat for juvenile coho is usually recognizable by one or more of the following features: large wood, a lot of wood, pools, connected off-channel alcoves, beaver ponds, lakes, connected floodplains and wetlands, and other conditions… (page 24)

➢ 7. Agency Actions to Support the Conservation Plan… (p. 34)
   Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
   ODFW commits to implementing the following actions related to beaver:
   • Expand Oregon Plan non-regulatory commitments that generally involve outreach and education, informal conversations with trappers, landowners, and land managers and informal exploration of alternative damage control methods for private landowners; the intended outcome of these activities is to achieve an increase in beaver dams to create high quality coho rearing habitat.
   • Develop tools (e.g.: maps, incentives) to identify key areas for beaver dams and to help landowners address beaver damage. (p. 39)

➢ How do these actions address limiting factors and support achievement of desired status for the Oregon coast coho ESU?
   • Increasing the number of beaver dams in areas where dams are limited that create high quality rearing habitat will create stream complexity and increase the coho smolt capacity of populations and the ESU, which will help the populations and ESU build towards desired status.
   (p. 39)

➢ Adaptive Management of the Conservation Plan
   The adaptive management process will play out on different levels as the Conservation Plan is implemented. Annual research, monitoring and evaluation information collected will be reviewed to determine the effectiveness of site-specific actions (e.g., enhancing an area to promote the development of beaver dams). (p. 56)

From NOAA’s Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon

➢ Chapter 3: Threats and Limiting Factors

   **Reduced amount and complexity of habitat.** Loss of stream complexity, including connected floodplain habitat, is a primary limiting factor for many coho salmon populations and overwinter rearing of juvenile coho salmon is especially a concern. This instream habitat is critical to produce high enough juvenile survival to sustain productivity, particularly during periods of poor ocean conditions. Habitat conditions that create sufficient complexity for juvenile rearing and overwintering include large wood debris
structures, pools, connections to side channels and off-channel alcoves, beaver ponds, lakes, and connections to wetlands, backwater areas and complex floodplains

➢ **Table 3-1.** Summary of how human-made and natural factors (underlying causes) contributed to listing of Oregon coast coho salmon.

Removing beaver and beaver habitat has caused loss of beaver pond habitat which is high value for rearing juvenile coho salmon (ODFW 2005c; Stout et al. 2012).

➢ Because beaver ponds provide high-value coho salmon habitat on the Oregon Coast (Leidholt-Bruner et al. 1992; Nickelson et al. 1992), their reduction constitutes degraded conditions for coho salmon.

Chapter 4: recovery goals and delisting criteria:

➢ **ESA) Listing Factor D: The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms**

Criteria: To meet the goal for Listing Factor D related to Listing Factor A, a combination of voluntary and regulatory mechanisms should be in place that:

change beaver management to allow beavers to build more dams in Oregon Coast coho rearing habitat; … change beaver management to allow beavers to build more dams in Oregon Coast coho rearing habitat.

Chapter 6. Recovery strategies and actions

➢ **6.2.1.1 Strategy to Improve Habitat at the ESU Level**

… High quality overwintering habitat for juvenile fish provides refuge from high velocity flows and usually contains one or more of the following features: connected floodplains and wetlands with attached off-channel alcoves, beaver dams and ponds, lakes, and channels with large wood and debris and deep pools (ODFW 2007 and Cluer 2016).

➢ **2. Ensure long-term ecosystem functions and high quality habitat by reducing habitat-related threats and encouraging formation of beaver dams and beaver dam analogues.**

➢ **2.1.2 Habitat Management Actions at the ESU Level**

• **Listing Factor A1: Habitat actions at the ESU Level**

A1-1.1 Implement the Beaver Restoration Guidebook (Pollock et al. 2015). Increase number of beaver dams and beaver dam analogues (to modify sediment and fluvial processes in ways that contribute significantly to coho salmon habitat). To support a voluntary approach, create and fund a beaver support network of groups that can respond to reports of nuisance beavers. The goal of this group would be to offer choices to landowners including tree protection, flow devices to lower pond levels, translocation and other non-lethal alternatives. The group would also provide
outreach and education about the role of beavers in healthy ecosystems and tools that landowners can use, such as the building of beaver dam analogues, to work with beaver to improve coho salmon rearing habitat.

- **A1-1.2** Seek agreements with APHIS, ODFW, ODOT and other agencies, along with timber companies and others, to (1) refer all beaver nuisance reports to the beaver support network proposed above, (2) avoid lethal removal of beavers pending use of non-lethal methods by the beaver support network, and (3) keep a record of these referrals.

- **A1-1.3** Increase incentives, such as creating a Beaver Pond Compensation Fund,\(^1\) to encourage beaver conservation.

- **A1-1.4** If necessary, revise regulations and statute(s) relating to beaver management to increase the number and size of beaver ponds (which can create prime coho salmon rearing habitat).

- **A2-2.4** Beaver management: provide support to landowners who experience beaver-related challenges in order to protect both property and beaver and their ponds.

---

\(^1\) As recommended by Oregon Department of Agriculture (Oregon 2015)
Roxann B Borisch

From: Marc Barnes <marc@irmforestry.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:43 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: "Fur Bearer Regulations"
Attachments: Beaver Restriction - Letter - MDB 03062020.docx

Please see attached letter

Marc Barnes
President & Owner
CA Registered Professional Forester #2538
Integrated Resource Management
PO Box 547
1431 College Street
Philomath OR 97370
Office: 541-929-3408
Cell: 541-609-0322
marc@irmforestry.com
www.irmforestry.com

Carpe Diem!
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE,  
Salem, OR 97302,

Re: Support for beaver trapping restrictions on the Siuslaw National Forest

Dear ODFW Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the request from the Siuslaw National Forest to amend the furbearer regulations to prohibit the trapping or hunting of beavers within the boundaries of the Siuslaw National Forest.

I have been working with the SNF to further conservation and restoration of our waters and watersheds for over 15 years. I have also spent many hours to help prioritize projects on the forest so they best use the retained receipts that the Siuslaw National Forest allocates every year for aquatic restoration. I have also worked to help plan or implement restoration on surrounding private lands that benefit the forest and the whole watershed. Beavers are important to me because they are critical to helping restore native coho and chinook habitat.

A trapping/hunting ban on beavers would help assure that beaver populations can rebuild, and can use the wood we put in the creek as a foundation to create dams and the ponds that salmon need. This will help restore our floodplains and riparian areas, store a lot of water and make our forests and the drinking water they provide to our communities more resilient in the face of climate change.

This ban would not affect the public’s right to trap or hunt other furbearers on the public land and would have important benefits.

Sincerely,

Marc Barnes  
President

PO Box 547  
Philomath, OR 97370  
www.irmmforestry.com

marc@irmforestry.com  
(541) 929-3408 - office  
(775) 535-4364 - fax  
(541) 609-0322 - cell
From: Kathleen Westly <kathleen@mrwc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Holly Purpura <holly@mrwc.org>
Subject: Fur Bearer Restrictions - public comment

Dear ODFW Commission,

Please find the Marys River Watershed Council’s letter in support of the proposed restrictions of beaver trapping on the Siuslaw National Forest.

Thank you,
Kathleen

Kathleen Westly
Education and Restoration Project Manager
Marys River Watershed Council
541.609.0442 (mobile)
Inspiring and supporting voluntary stewardship of the Marys River watershed.

March 10, 2020

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Re: Support for beaver trapping restrictions on the Siuslaw National Forest

Dear ODFW Commissioners:

Marys River Watershed Council is fully supportive of the request from the Siuslaw National Forest to amend the furbearer regulations to prohibit the trapping or hunting of beavers within the boundaries of the Siuslaw National Forest.

The Council has worked with the SNF to further conservation and restoration of our waters and watersheds for over twelve years, conducting numerous off-forest watershed system enhancement projects on surrounding private lands that benefit the forest and the whole watershed. Beavers are critical to the health and function of the Marys River watershed and increasingly the focus of our restoration efforts. The Marys River is temperature limited during the warm summer months when native species are seeking cold water refugia. Beaver provide extensive rearing habitat in the upper headwaters and, most importantly for the Marys River watershed, retain water in the system to be released slowly over the summer, providing cold water inputs to the system during this critical period.

Because of riparian logging conducted decades ago, much of the large wood that would have kept our streams connected with the floodplains and provided the structural support for winter stable beaver dams is gone. This has resulted in channel simplification and incision, which has caused a degradation of the habitat needed for successful beaver colonization. Much of the work MRWC has conducted has included large wood inputs, in the form of log structures and in the Upper Marys this summer will also include the construction of beaver dam analogs. These measures help to again engage floodplains and alter the hydrology such that these habitats provide beaver with the opportunity to build winter stable dams. We have also designed planting regimes conducive to beaver, both for forage and construction.
A trapping/hunting ban on beavers would help assure that beaver populations can rebuild, and can use the wood we put in the creek as a foundation to create dams and the ponds that aquatic organisms, including salmonids and Pacific lamprey, need. This will help restore our floodplains and riparian areas, store water for slow release during low flow, warmer periods and make our forests and streams more resilient in the face of climate change.

This ban would not affect the public's right to trap or hunt other furbearers on the public land and would have important benefits for the health and function of the watershed as well as for our human communities, including drinking water consumption and flood controls.

Best Regards,

Holly Purpura
Executive Director
Marys River Watershed Council

Digitally signed by Holly Purpura
Date: 2020.03.11 14:26:44 -07'00'
Please find attached comments from the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Lincoln City (Neotsu mailing address) supporting beaver trapping restrictions on the Siuslaw National Forest.

Sincerely,

Paul Katen

Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Board Chairperson

541 996-3161
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE, 
Salem, OR 97302

Re: 2020-2022 Furbearer Regulations;  
Support for beaver trapping restrictions on the Siuslaw National Forest

Dear Commissioners:

The Salmon Drift Creek Watersheds Council asks that the 2020-2022 furbearer regulations be changed to prohibit the trapping or hunting of beavers within the boundaries of the Siuslaw National Forest, as requested by that forest.

The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council is a non-profit group dedicated to restoring salmon and water quality in our watersheds. One of our many partners is the Siuslaw National Forest with whom we’ve work for years to restore estuaries and streams and to improve roads to maintain the quality of our municipal drinking water. We’ve worked to place large wood and do riparian planting and to encourage beaver presence for the water quantity and water quality and salmon habitat their ponds provide. We’ve provided information about beaver benefits and even done workshops on “living with beavers”. However, in a number of SNF watersheds including those in the headwaters of Crowley Creek and on Fraser Creek, beavers have been taken and colonies have disappeared. We need to allow beaver populations to rebound. Without these animals to do the work they do, watershed restoration is severely curtailed. We need to allow these animals to rebound throughout the forest.

Since the ponds that beavers create are essential habitat for Oregon Coast Coho, and since without active beavers maintaining the dams, the dams disintegrate, it seems counter-productive for ODFW to allow the continued take of beavers, when the landowner has requested hunting and trapping to be curtailed. Please prohibit the trapping/hunting ban on beavers throughout the boundaries of the Siuslaw National Forest.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Katen  
Board Chairperson

---

Board of Directors: Paul Katen (President) · Peter McSwain (Secretary) · Laura Doyle (Treasurer)  
Joanne Daschel · Fran Recht · Sheryl Smith · Jim Stafford · David Hawker

SDCWC is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization - Tax ID # 20-2951677
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE,
Salem, OR 97302

March 17, 2020

Re: Support for Siuslaw National Forest beaver trapping restrictions

Dear ODFW Commissioners:

The Wetlands Conservancy is a state-wide group founded in 1981. We work with partners in communities across the state to conserve, enhance and restore wetlands and the multitude of ecological and economic values they support. As such we are writing in strong support of Siuslaw National Forest’s request to amend the furbearer regulations to prohibit the trapping or hunting of beavers within the boundaries of the forest.

The Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) is located in the headwaters of many of the watersheds on the central Oregon coast, including in Alsea Bay, Beaver Creek, and Yaquina Bay where we conserve and restore some of Oregon’s greatest wetlands. Their restoration work, which would be greatly enhanced and extended by the increased activity of beavers through trapping restrictions, would help our own efforts to enhance coho salmon habitat, increase flood storage capacity and recharge groundwater, and preserve and maintain wetlands for wildlife. The SNF’s work includes intensive planting of food for beaver, large wood placements to provide anchors for beaver dam building, and installing large culverts under roads to restore hydrology while reducing beaver conflicts. The Wetlands Conservancy, likewise enhances conditions for beavers downstream of their lands and works to tolerate and mitigate for any problems they cause.

A trapping/hunting ban on beavers would help assure that beaver populations can rebuild and is a timely move to enhance the resilience of our watersheds to flooding and droughts. Thank you for your timely consideration of and response to this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ann Witsil
Interim Executive Director
Re: Beaver trapping restrictions in the upper Nehalem above river mile 34
Date: December 6, 2019

Dear Commissioners:

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC - est. 1996) has invested millions of public dollars working with willing landowners, stakeholders, advisors and funders to analysis watershed health, and implement projects focused on improving salmon migration and stream habitat conditions in order to increase Coho salmon survival in the Nehalem basin.

One of the areas of particular interest for us is the watershed area above river mile 34 (118 miles from headwaters to the Nehalem Bay). This area historically produced hundreds of thousands of salmon smolts each year. Based on state of the art watershed analysis including extensive stream surveys we know the salmon production potential in the upper Nehalem basin still exists and we are working diligently to improve aquatic habitats. We are working specifically to restore the low gradient areas in the upper Nehalem watershed. Historically these areas were laden with old growth logjams and winter-persistent beaver dams that assured flood plain connection, ground water recharge and provided ample salmon spawning, rearing and refuge habitat, saturated with cool clear water essential for maximum salmon production. These stream reaches became degraded over time by human land-use impacts. However, through analysis we find certain stream reaches intact enough to serve as anchor habitats. Currently we are actively enhancing multiple stream anchor habitats by installing complex large woody debris (LWD) structures and beaver dam analogues (BDA – picket posts woven with brush to raise the water level and attract beavers) supplemented with willow plantings for Beaver food. With the support of the Oregon Department of Forestry, ODFW, NOAA, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Trask Consulting the UNWC recently installed 40 BDA’s and 15 LWD structures on ODF lands along anchor habitat reaches.

While we have observed Beaver presence throughout the upper watershed, we are concerned with the over-all health condition of the Beaver population and our lack of understanding of factors limiting the abundance of the Beaver population. At this point recreational Beaver trapping will not allow full Beaver population recovery in the anchor habitats and the ODFW trapping reporting requirements are inadequate, limiting our ability to understand how trapping effects our recovery approach. Our goal is to allow Beaver colonies to re-establish along anchor habitat stream reaches on public land to improve salmon rearing and refuge habitat in the upper reaches of Coho producing streams in the upper Nehalem watershed.

Therefore, we request a recreational trapping Beaver trapping restriction be put in place on public land managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry in the upper Nehalem watershed (See map: includes portions of Cow, Buster, Little Fishhawk, Squaw, Northrup, Deep, Fishhawk, Oak Ranch, Rock, Wolf and Lousignont Creeks).
We also recommend ODFW initiate a Beaver population study in the North Coast Range that includes a limiting factors analysis that would document the effect of trapping, disease, predation, flooding and food source presence on the Beaver population’s ability to survive and thrive. Increased knowledge would allow ODFW to improve Beaver management and improve the potential success of our Coho recovery efforts for the greater good of all concerned.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Maggie Peyton - UNWC Executive Director
With the support of the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Board of Directors
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302.

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

This letter is in support of proposals being presented at your December 6, 2016 meeting by the Siuslaw National Forest and Fran Recht to exclude certain public lands in the Oregon Coast Coho ESU from beaver trapping.

As a former ODFW fisheries conservation biologist that helped develop the Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan, I can attest to the need to take these types of actions to rebuild the wild Oregon Coast coho populations. Beaver have had a critical role in creating excellent over-winter and over-summer rearing habitat for juvenile coho, steelhead, cutthroat and lamprey throughout the eons that these species have coexisted in coastal watersheds.

There is no denying that beaver populations are a fraction of what they were when these species co-evolved in coastal watersheds, and that there are fewer beaver dams and ponds in these watersheds than were present prior to human development. Millions of dollars have been spent over the past three decades to try to restore the habitats that beaver can create in an effort to rebuild Oregon’s native salmon, steelhead and trout populations. Despite all of these efforts, it is difficult to discern an improvement in the quantity and quality of fish habitat. It is time for bolder measures to move the needle on watershed restoration.

While it may be true that recreational beaver trapping takes fewer beaver each year than damage trapping, excluding recreational trapping on public lands where restoration work has occurred may help beaver populations to grow or re-inhabit streams in these watersheds. As far as I know, there has never been a study in Oregon to see if excluding trapping in areas where habitat work has occurred can lead to increased beaver dams/ponds. What is being proposed for the Upper Nehalem state lands is an ideal situation to conduct such a study and I strongly encourage ODFW to take advantage of this opportunity. The results of such a study would inform whether such measures are effective, or unnecessary.

Another benefit of implementing restrictions on beaver trapping on certain public lands, is how it could change the public perception of beaver. Currently, many landowners have beaver lethally removed from their property to address damage. ODFW has spoken with two voices on this. Fisheries biologists promote coexisting with beaver, but your regulations say it’s ok to take beaver anywhere you want. If all of ODFW spoke with one voice that says beaver are needed in important coho streams and trapping will not be allowed there, it may become easier to get landowners to use non-lethal methods to address beaver damage – which could make a substantial improvement in the quantity of beaver, their ponds, and our native fish.

The public perception of beaver has already begun to change. There is a growing voice in Oregon that wants to see more done to promote beaver, and is asking for restrictions on trapping. I hope ODFW can be proactive and implement the modest changes proposed by the Siuslaw National Forest and Fran Recht. Continuing to ignore those voices will diminish the Department’s credibility and could lead to those voices seeking other avenues to get protections for beaver.
Thank you for considering these proposals. As a longtime Beaver Believer, I would be happy to help staff implement these proposals, or design the study to assess their effectiveness.

Kevin Goodson
36362 Devitt Road
Blodgett, OR 97326
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon, 97302

To whom it may concern:

The federal Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan was published on December 1, 2016. This plan, building on earlier efforts, calls in particular for “continued actions to repair the ecosystem processes that influence the health and stability of the rearing habitats for juvenile coho salmon”. One of the emphasis areas in the plan is actively managing beavers and beaver dam building to create and maintain such habitat.

One of the four limiting factors noted in the Recovery Plan is the reduced quantity and quality of stream habitat for juvenile rearing and overwintering. Good habitat for coho includes large wood debris structures, pools, connections to side channels and off-channel alcoves, beaver ponds, lakes, and connections to wetlands, backwater areas and complex floodplains. Many of these habitat conditions are generated and maintained by connecting streams and rivers to their surrounding landscape. The Recovery Plan notes: “Beaver provide considerable help in providing this connection and in maintaining proper watershed functioning in Oregon coast streams”.

Beavers were once ubiquitous in Oregon’s watersheds. The historic removal of beavers is thought to have had a significant population impact on coho salmon. For example, colleagues from the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the University of Washington document these impacts in the Stillaguamish basin in western Washington (https://doi.org/10.1577/M03-156.1). They show that the greatest reduction in coho salmon smolt capacity originated from the extensive loss of beaver ponds in this watershed. The current summer smolt production potential (SPP) for the Stillaguamish River basin was calculated to be 965,000 smolts, as compared with a historic summer SPP of 2.5 million smolts. The 61% deficit in capacity results mostly from the loss of beaver ponds. An even more dramatic reduction (86%) in winter habitat capacity was estimated - again most of the overall reduction resulted from the loss of beaver ponds.
Beaver recovery on a coast-wide scale will have significant benefits to coho salmon populations. I urge you to consider the management of beavers in Oregon as a robust, viable tactic that underlies the rebuilding of healthy salmon populations state-wide. Fostering opportunities for beaver-based stream restoration methods (e.g., Beaver Dam Analogs and Post Assisted Log Structures), techniques to mitigate human-beaver conflicts (e.g., pond-levelers, culvert protectors, translocation), and active population management (e.g., harvest and removal controls) are all viable approaches to increase the beneficial stream habitat impacts that beavers can have in Oregon watersheds.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Jordan, Program Manager
Mathematical Biology and System Monitoring Program
December 4, 2019

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

The MidCoast Watersheds Council supports the request of the Siuslaw National Forest to restrict beaver trapping within the forest boundary.

We work closely with the Siuslaw National Forest through the public-private-tribal Alsea Stewardship partnership. We collaborate on restoration planning and projects on our public lands as well as on downstream private lands that benefit coho, steelhead, and other species. A beaver trapping restriction will help assure that the conservation and restoration work that the forest is doing can be sustained over time, and that the water flowing out of the national forest can continue to provide the key habitats and cold water refugia that benefit our work.

We have spent many millions of dollars of state funds planning and implementing projects with the help of ODFW staff that assure fish passage, restore large wood to streams, improve riparian conditions, and restore floodplain and estuarine marsh connectivity. These are all helping to restore the ecological processes that were curtailed in the past. However, the scale and reach of our work seems small compared to the challenges faced.

Beaver work round the clock to do the type of work that needs to be done to restore watershed conditions, and can do it efficiently. They don’t need years to plan, fund, permit and implement a project! While certainly beavers can be challenging to roads and treasured trees, we have also worked to inform people of the benefits of beaver and how to “live with beaver”. However, progress is slow and beavers continue to be removed from both public and private lands and accordingly many dams fail without the continued maintenance provided by these animals, draining the impounded water necessary for coho over-wintering habitat.

We think that restricting beaver trapping in the Siuslaw National Forest would have significant positive watershed level impacts and help protect designated coho critical habitat on the forest (see attached maps). It will also provide us with places for fieldtrips to show, on the ground, the benefits of beaver presence and how beaver mitigation devices can work.

Please support beaver trapping restrictions within the Siuslaw National Forest.

Thank you,

Paul Engelmeyer
Chairperson
MidCoast Watersheds Council
411 NE Avery Street, Suite B
Newport, OR 97365 (541)265-9195 www.midcoastwatersheds.org
The Siuslaw National Forest (green) conserves and enhances Coho Critical Habitat (blue)
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Chairperson Wahl and Fish and Wildlife Commissioner members:

I am writing to request that you enact trapping restrictions on beavers within the boundaries of Siuslaw National Forest, as you have done for other national forests. National Forests that have restrictions include: the Mt. Hood National Forest, Ochoco National Forest, Malheur National Forest, Willow-Whitman National Forest, and Umatilla National Forest.

In partnership with the State of Oregon, we have been focusing time, energy and funding into large-scale aquatic restoration projects in addition to our Salmon Super Highway partnership with numerous stakeholders. Aquatic restoration improves the flow of the water through the system, ensures passage of aquatic organisms, improves the watershed condition, and facilitates the recovery of the Coastal coho salmon. Beavers are a key component to restoration of the watersheds and the ecosystem.

Our forest has dedicated tens of thousands of staff hours and have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on aquatic habitat restoration efforts over a 30-year period. Despite these efforts, our ability to restore and conserve these watersheds as resilient strong-holds, including for downstream municipal water supplies, is hampered without beavers. The sustained presence of beavers and their dams depends on having active beaver dams maintained by active beaver colonies. Resiliency of the aquatic ecosystems is critical as we address changes in temperature regimes, weather patterns, and water availability.

Our efforts focus on recovering Coastal coho, supplying municipal water, and ensuring resilient landscapes. We are asking for your assistance in assuring that beaver trapping does not occur on the national forest. We recognize that trapping can occur on private lands. We actively work with and respect our private land neighbors. For example, our stewardship (Wyden Authority) program allows us to work with private land owners and fund projects on private lands that facilitate restoration efforts across all lands. Without a ban on trapping beaver on national forest lands, our efforts are stymied. Please consider this ban and assist us in optimizing the use of our funds (both federal and State), supporting aquatic restoration efforts, and ensuring the good work we have done continues into the future.
Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

ROBERT SANCHEZ
Forest Supervisor

cc: Tere O'Rourke
10/31/2019

To: ODFW Commissioners

From: Steve Trask

Senior Fish Biologist for Bio-Surveys, LLC
and Trask Consulting, Inc.

This is a letter of support for the proposed request to develop a beaver trapping ban pilot project in the Upper Nehalem Basin on ODF managed State lands.

There is a large movement throughout the west that is developing momentum to focus aquatic and riparian recovery funding on restoring beaver to ecosystems where their numbers have been dramatically reduced from what is known to have been much higher historical levels of abundance. Beaver recovery has become one of the primary goals of both Federal and State recovery planning documents for both restoring ecosystem processes and for the recovery of listed salmonid species.

In the steep coastal watersheds of Oregon, the loss of large wood and the reduction in the abundance of Beaver dams that provide water storage, low velocity refugia and the capacity to store forest nutrients that benefit a complex food web have crippled our aquatic corridors for the production of not only salmonids but a vast array of other wildlife species.

Our firm has been providing technical assistance to watershed councils and agencies now for 31 years. Our focus has been entirely on the restoration of ecosystem function that trickles down to the provision of healthy, productive and self-sustaining stream networks for our precious populations of anadromous fish species. After all this time it has become clear to many of us working on the ground in the biological arena that the recovery of system function will remain unachievable without the assistance of all of the key players that originally formed the ecosystems we manage.

Recently, the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council and its partners completed NOAA-funded work that furthers the actions called for in the Federal Oregon Coast Coho Salmon recovery plan. This plan, which is to recover the threatened coho salmon, highlights the importance of restoring beaver dam complexes to the landscape for the meaningful recovery of coho salmon. This effort has coalesced into a multi-year funding plan toward beaver recovery in the headwater subbasins of the Nehalem (where the existence of an ancient sea bed provided the low gradient stream networks that beaver prefer for dam building). In 2018-2019, 60 Beaver dam analogues were installed in 7 different subbasins to provide a foundation for beaver colonization. This project will continue to expand into many more subbasins of the Upper Nehalem in the next 10 years. Extensive monitoring to evaluate the efficacy of these installations has been incorporated into the projects goals and objectives. All of the project
sites also include extensive investments in a riparian recovery plan that emphasizes the provision of appropriate food species for beaver.

I’m writing to you not only to highlight the importance of this recovery trajectory as we get closer to the critical aquatic thresholds presented by climate change but to also attempt to convince you of the importance of providing your restoration professionals on the ground with a chance to succeed.

It is my opinion that if beaver continue to be the target of commercial, recreational or pest management trapping, the efforts of a large consortium of restoration partners, agencies and funders will continue to fail to achieve the stated goals of all of our planning documents. We need beaver to prosper to be able to function as the keystone species that we know they are.

We support this proposed ban on ODF lands in the Upper Nehalem Basin (above the confluence of Humbug Cr) as a Pilot Project. We think this area is of significant enough size on the landscape scale to be capable of detecting and quantifying benefit within a 10 year horizon.

Thank you in advance, for your judicious consideration of this request.

Steve Trask
Dear ODFW Commissioners:

December 6, 2019

My name is Fran Recht. I'm here to ask that you direct ODFW staff to look into enacting beaver trapping restrictions within the boundaries of the Siuslaw National Forest as that forest has requested and also on state lands in the Upper Nehalem where the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council is doing intensive restoration and planting work to encourage beavers. I have provided you a packet of letters requesting or supporting such trapping restrictions from the Siuslaw National Forest, the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, Biosurveys LLC and Trask Consulting, the MidCoast Watersheds Council, Dr. Jordan from National Marine Fisheries Service, and former ODFW fisheries biologist Kevin Goodson.

Oregon Coast Coho are listed as threatened in these watersheds and encouraging beavers and their dam building activity is called for in the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan that this Commission approved in 2007, as well as in the federal recovery plan. As ODFW's coho conservation plan notes: “Increasing the number of beaver dams in areas where dams are limited that create high quality rearing habitat will create stream complexity and increase the coho smolt capacity of populations and the ESU, which will help the populations and ESU build towards desired status.”

I manage the habitat program of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and through my work with watershed councils and in partnerships with federal, state, tribal and non-governmental conservation organizations, it has become clear that despite the tremendous amount of state, federal and tribal money going into supporting great restoration work, we're not working fast enough or intensively enough on a watershed scale to recover coho salmon and to maintain cold, clean, abundant water in many of our stream systems. In fact, the challenges we face are anticipated to continue and intensify in a warming climate with longer dry periods and more intense, flashier storms.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. BLM and many watershed councils and other non-profit groups are working in many regions and across the landscape to encourage beavers to build dams and create habitat. There are also many groups and individuals working actively to help landowners "live with beaver", finding solutions for the problems they can cause, so beavers aren't trapped out or otherwise killed. I've made 4 short videos featuring landowners and experts that groups can use in their educational outreach to explain beaver benefits and various solutions: http://habitat.psmfc.org/living-with-beaver/

Despite the threatened status of Oregon Coast Coho and despite the well-known benefits of retaining beavers so they can create the complex habitat conditions that are needed to sustain and rebuild these populations of threatened fish, almost all the current areas on public lands that have beaver trapping restrictions in place are east of the Cascades. The requested Siuslaw Forest and Upper Nehalem restrictions, would be the first in coastal basins.

As you are likely aware, beavers on public land are managed by ODFW as furbearers and a license is required to trap them. An unknown but presumably much larger number of beaver are taken on private lands under Oregon Department of Agriculture's "predator" control statute. Hunting, trapping, and poisoning are all allowed with no questions asked as a “damage control” mechanism and with no records kept. Many of the same trappers work both on private lands and on public lands under both
these mechanisms. Anecdotal reports from landowners and trappers, mention whole watersheds being trapped out, so that beavers don’t “re-seed” from public lands onto the private lands.

There is speculation that recreational trapping does not affect beaver populations. However, there has never been a study in Oregon to determine if preventing such trapping can rebuild or restore beaver populations where habitat restoration has occurred. The Upper Nehalem beaver restriction area could be a pilot project that would allow such a study. The Watershed Council has a major restoration effort funded by NOAA using beaver dam anchors and tree thinning and dense planting of beaver-favored food to restore beaver and their habitat. These efforts are designed to get as big a response as possible from beaver recovery and it is intensively monitored, including for coho benefits. This could provide a treatment site to allow ODFW to study the impacts of curtailment of trapping. Nearby areas without a trapping ban could serve as controls. Conservation Strategy funds could possibly be used to implement this study. OWEB research funds could also be sought to help fund such a study.

Protecting important coho habitat on public lands from beaver trapping will also send an important message to Oregonians that beaver are a keystone species and the habitat they create is of critical importance to the recovery of wild Coho Salmon. This could help reduce the use of lethal measures to address beaver damage on private land.

I hope you will assist in the recovery of coho salmon on the coast. Please direct ODFW staff to look into enacting the beaver trapping restrictions being requested by the Siuslaw National Forest and the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council on state lands above the Humbug Creek confluence. I would be happy to work with your staff and those parties to implement these changes.

Sincerely,

Fran Recht

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