

INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET



Common Name: Feral Swine

Family: *Mammalia*

Order: *Artiodactyla*

Class: *Suidae*

Species: *Sus scrofa*

Other names: Feral pig, feral hog, wild boar, old world swine, razorback

Origin: Eurasia

Size: Range from 77-450 lbs.

Description:

- Feral swine are animals of the genus *Sus* which meet the following conditions (OAR 603-010-0055):
 - The animals are free roaming on public or private lands and are not being held under domestic management confinement
 - No notification to the landowner, manager, or occupant has been made by the swine owner or their representative of specifically identified and described swine having escaped domestic management confinement within a radius of five miles during the past five days
 - The swine under consideration do not appear to be domesticated and are not tame
 - The swine under consideration do not meet the identification and description of escaped swine in the second bullet above
- Feral swine coloration can range from solid black to red, striped, grizzled or spotted.
- Boars have four continually growing tusks which they use for defense and to establish a dominance hierarchy during breeding.
- Feral swine have cloven feet and flat elongated snouts which they use to root in the soil for food. They have a strong sense of smell and hearing but very poor eyesight.

Legal Status:

- To halt the spread of invasive feral swine, the 2009 Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2221 that requires landowners and land managers to notify ODFW when they become aware of free roaming feral swine on their property.
- The bill also makes it illegal to sell hunts for feral swine on public or private property.

How to report:

- Landowners and managers are required to contact their local ODFW office within 10 days of discovering feral swine on their land. Then, they have 60 days to submit a feral swine removal plan to the department for approval. Technical advice is available; call ODFW's Terrestrial Invasive Species coordinator, (503) 947-6000.

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Ecology:

- Feral swine in Oregon are the result of unintentional escapes from domestic swine facilities and intentional releases.
- Male feral swine called boars usually lead solitary lives, though several boars may band together.
- Female feral swine called sows forage with their young; usually there are about six in a family group.
- Several family groups of feral swine may join together to live in a larger group called a sounder.
- In general, feral swine can adapt to almost any kind of habitat, but they tend to inhabit swamps, brushlands, riparian zones, forests and areas near agricultural fields.
- Feral swine are omnivores. Their diet is comprised of acorns, forbs, grasses, fungus, leaves, berries, fruits, roots, tubers, corn and other agricultural crops, insects, crayfish, frogs, salamanders, snakes, mice, eggs of ground-nesting birds, small mammals, fawns, lambs, calves, kid goats and carrion.
- Feral swine feed most heavily at dawn and dusk.
- Feral swine also scratch themselves on a variety of objects to remove dried mud or parasites from their skin. They have been known to rub on trees, rocks, fence posts and power poles. The rubs are usually from ground level up to about 3 feet high, usually with bits of hair or mud clinging to the rubbed object.
- Feral swine dig and scrape in wet ground to form wallows which they lie in to escape from heat and insects.

Status: Prohibited in Oregon where they are considered a predatory animal *on private land. On public land, they are considered nongame and nonprotected.

Interesting facts: Feral swine reproduce quickly; it would take a 70% harvest rate each year just to maintain the population at its current level. Hunting is often used as a management tool but studies have found that even with unlimited hunting, hunters are only able to remove up to 40% of a population each year.

Potential Impact: Feral swine have been shown to restrict timber growth, reduce and/or remove understory vegetation and destabilize soils, causing increased erosion and compaction while simultaneously decreasing stream quality. Rooting and grubbing activities have been shown to facilitate the invasion of noxious weeds and other nonnative vegetation, reducing site diversity and distribution of native species. Feral swine compete with native wildlife and livestock for food and habitat, and they prey on young native wildlife and livestock. Feral swine can transmit disease to wildlife, livestock and humans.

Action: If you see feral swine on public or private property, please call ODFW at (503) 947-6000 or 1-866-INVADER.

* **ORS 610.002:** "Predatory animal" or "predatory animals" includes feral swine as defined by State Department of Agriculture rule, coyotes, rabbits, rodents and birds that are or may be destructive to agricultural crops, products, and activities, but excluding game birds and other birds determined by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to be in need of protection.



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