

ODFW Beaver Management Work Group
Monday, June 28th 2021, 2-4pm PT
Zoom Meeting

Participants:

- *Michael O'Casey (alternate for Leland Brown), Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society*
- Lauren Smith, Association of Oregon Counties
- Jefferson Jacobs, Oregon Natural Desert Association
- Samantha Bruegger, WildEarth Guardians
- Danielle Moser, Oregon Wild
- Brian Posewitz, Humane Voters Oregon
- *Scott Beckstead (alternate for Brian Posewitz), Center for a Humane Economy*
- Ernie Niemi, Natural Resource Economics
- Darren Bollen, Bureau of Land Management
- Wayne Elmore, Full Stream Consulting/retired BLM
- Boone Kauffman, Illahee Sciences International/Oregon State University
- Chris Jordan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- Amy Patrick, Oregon Hunters Association
- Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau
- Stan Steele, Oregon Trappers Association
- Michelle Tate, ODFW Commission Liaison
- Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Biologist
- Tom Stahl, ODFW Fish Biologist
- *Matt Strickland, (alternate for Tom Stahl), ODFW Fish Biologist*
- Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director
- *Kevin Blakely (alternate for Shannon Hurn), ODFW Deputy Administrator*
- Becky Hatfield-Hyde, ODFW Commission
- Greg Wolley, ODFW Commission
- *Jill Zarnowitz (alternate for Becky Hatfield-Hyde), ODFW Commission*

Absent:

- Leland Brown, Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- Josh Chapman, USDA Forest Service

Facilitation Team:

- Jamie Damon, Kearns & West
- Samantha Meysohn, Kearns & West

Welcome, Agenda Review, and Introductions

Jamie Damon, Kearns & West opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the kick-off of the ODFW Beaver Management Work Group. She invited the Commissioners to offer opening remarks.

Commissioners Hatfield-Hyde, Wolley, and Zarnowitz shared their appreciation for everyone's participation in the work group and enthusiasm for getting started on these dialogues. They

expressed hope for an open and respectful dialogue, and to receive recommendations from the group by the conclusion of this process.

Jamie thanked the commissioners and then invited work group participants to introduce themselves and to share their hopes and expectations for the Beaver Management Work Group process. Following introductions, Jamie provided an overview of the agenda.

Review Outcomes of the Convening Interview Summary

Jamie introduced this section by inviting work group members to share reflections on the Convening Interview Summary.

Work group members discussed the scope and mission of the beaver management work group.

Some work group members shared that impacted communities need to be a part of the discussions, and there are issues with beaver that go beyond federal lands. Some work group members were concerned that the make-up of the work group did not have everyone who needed to be involved to discuss beaver management on private land. Work group members advocated for ODFW to manage trapping on federal lands to obtain the benefits from having beaver on the landscape. One person urged the work group to assess the costs and benefits of various management actions. Another person noted that there are assumptions being made that trapping policies are the cause of a lack of beaver benefits on the landscape.

The Commissioners stated that the group was initiated to address the topics of trapping on federal land. The commissioners reiterated the importance of thinking about beaver management at the landscape level and how to manage beaver to aid in addressing climate change, wildfires, and fish habitat. Jamie noted that the work group can develop recommendations for the commission about the need for future conversations that may include people who are not involved in the work group.

Members requested the addition of other members including: APHIS Wildlife Services, beaver biologists, and economists. The commissioners responded that the size of the group is manageable, they believe the make-up to be appropriate for the task of the group, and that the scientists involved are two knowledgeable and competent researchers. They added that additional researchers can be engaged as an Advisory Science Panel. The work group members want to have focused yet comprehensive discussions.

The group discussed why the Work Group would focus on federal lands rather than all “public” lands. ODFW explained that they have authority to manage on state lands and have plans to incorporate beaver management into broader ecosystem management goals. However, this work group is focused has a federal land focus because of the language in the petition and the commitment from the ODFW Commission to address beaver trapping on federal lands. Local governments, counties, municipalities, and others that have infrastructure affected by beaver would need to be represented if the work group is addressing all public land. A work group

member added that the federal focus of the petition came from trying to prioritize targeting ecological impacts on headwater streams.

The group discussed how habitat should be considered within the work group. During the discussion, work group members urged the group to consider the following:

- Habitat often crosses jurisdictional boundaries, making it challenging to focus only on federal lands.
- Habitat availability is a contributing factor for beaver to be present on the landscape.
- Do not assume that harvest is the driving factor for beaver presence or absence.
- There is an assumption that beaver populations are insufficient – do we have the data to support this?
- The benefits and costs of beaver impacted areas, and to not limit the conversation to how many trappers can trap on federal land.
- Can the watershed can withstand beaver harvesting?
- Trappers can support collecting valuable scientific data to improve knowledge about beaver.
- The need for data about how trapping bans effect habitat.
- If we are discussing habitat, then we need to have the appropriate people in the room who also manage habitat.

A work group member stated that there are many sources of knowledge, data, and science to inform the conversation on beaver, and asked about the process for bringing forward resources for the group. Another work group member emphasized that data gaps exist specifically related to trapping for predatory classified beaver, specific beaver population numbers, and beaver presence/absence on federal land.

A work group member inquired as to how consensus would be achieved. Jamie reiterated that the group will strive for consensus recommendations and encouraged the group to review the charter and ideas for decision making.

Confirm Next Steps, Upcoming Meeting Topics, and Summary

Jamie summarized the meeting discussions and reviewed next steps.

Action Items:

- KW will draft a survey for work group members to share feedback on the key issues to address, as well as the charter language.
- The next meeting was confirmed for Thursday, July 22nd, 9-11am.

Jamie thanked everyone for their hard work and focus during the webinar.

The meeting ended at 4:00 pm.