

ODFW Trap Check Work Group
Tuesday, June 29th 2021, 3-5pm PT
Zoom Meeting

Participants:

- Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau
- Kelly Peterson, Humane Society of the United States
- Jim Soares, Oregon Trappers Association
- *Doug Nichol (alternate for Jim Soares), Oregon Trappers Association*
- Tyler Dungannon, Oregon Hunters Association
- *Amy Patrick (alternate for Tyler Dungannon), Oregon Hunters Association*
- Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon
- Quinn Read, Center for Biological Diversity
- Jill Zarnowitz, ODFW Commission
- Greg Wolley, ODFW Commission
- Derek Broman, ODFW Wildlife Biologist
- Shannon Hurn, ODFW Deputy Director
- *Kevin Blakely (alternate for Shannon Hurn), ODFW Deputy Administrator*
- Michelle Tate, ODFW

Absent

- Lauren Smith, Association of Oregon Counties

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 Trap Check Work Group. She invited the Commissioners to offer opening remarks.

Commissioners 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 recommendations that will be reasonable and fair, and a desire to hear everyone's perspective on the trap check times.

Jamie thanked the commissioners and then invited work group participants to introduce themselves and to share their hopes and expectations for the Trap Check 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.

Themes from the discussion are below:

- Some work group members emphasized that the work group would discuss the trap check interval times. While some work group members in the interviews shared questions about the use of trapping as a management tool, the focus of the work group should be on the trap check intervals.
- Some feel it is challenging to begin a dialogue when participants are starting with different positions on trapping, in general. Some people see trapping as a way of life and others ask why is trapping a management tool?
- Several participants want to learn about the history behind the trap check regulations and utility of trapping program.
- Several participants encouraged the group to more fully consider why the current regulations are the way they are, and to not pre-suppose a solution.
- There is an interest in looking at the costs/benefits of administering the trapping program, and understanding the industry as a whole, the consumer, the supply chain, etc.
- There is concern that APHIS Wildlife Services is not involved in the work group.
 - The Commissioners responded that ODFW sets the trap check times, and Wildlife Services follows these regulations. They see an opportunity to invite Wildlife Services as a guest to present or to weigh in on specific topics.
 - There was a request to engage with external researchers, as well.
- There were questions about enforcement of trap check times currently, and the costs associated with enforcing the current trap check times for the Wildlife Division of Oregon State Police. Can OSP determine how long an animal has been in a trap based on the body condition of the animal? Can OSP determine who is responsible?

Discuss Key Issues to Address

Jamie introduced this section by providing an overview of the Key Issues to Address gathered from the convening interviews. The questions were organized by theme and summarized to provide more general questions for the group to consider. Some participants felt that the questions were not specific to the scope of the group - trap check time intervals. Jamie shared that for some, answering all questions could help provide context so that others could reach recommendations on the trap check interval issue. The group decided to discuss the scope of the group to ensure everyone is in agreement on the focus of the work group.

Review the Mission and Purpose

The group discussed the Mission and Purpose as described in the draft charter. The group decided to use the following ODFW Commission language for the Mission statement, "The Commission directs the department to review trap check time requirements and come back to the Commission by January 2021 with proposed change if any." The group discussed the term

“recommendation”, and all agreed that recommendations could mean to keep the current regulations or to recommend changes.

The commissioners clarified that in past ODFWC meetings they said there are issues related to the trap check intervals and that the Trap Check Work Group was convened to identify and address those issues. The group discussed the term “issues” and clarified that issues were identified on all sides of the trap check interval topic. Issues could relate to how people do not understand the role of trapping or how people do not understand the value of trapping for landowners.

The group also discussed the value of considering information from outside the group and added in a sentence related to gathering information relevant to the topic at-hand.

The group members requested information on the history of the trap check requirements in Oregon, and how Oregon compares to other Western States. ODFW staff offered to develop a presentation to share about the different trap check times in other states, and to circulate background information on the history of the Trap Check regulations. They also agreed to reach out to OSP Wildlife Division to understand how the regulations are enforced.

One work group member shared the opinion that furbearer trap check time intervals in Oregon are more strict than other Western States. The group agreed that the Trap Check Work Group will consider trap check intervals for furbearers and predatory animals. Another work group member strongly urged the work group to involve APHIS Wildlife Services in those discussions.

All agreed to the revised language of the mission and scope.

Confirm next steps, upcoming meeting topics, and summary

Jamie summarized the meeting discussions and reviewed next steps.

Action Items:

- KW: Confirm next Trap Check Meeting for mid-July
- KW: Draft a meeting summary and send to the group on Wednesday, July 7th
- KW: Develop a survey and circulate to participants regarding key questions to address and to gather input on the charter
- KW: Work with Derek Broman to circulate background information on the history of trap check requirements in Oregon
- ODFW: Develop a presentation on the trap check times for Western States, including the role of OSP in enforcement
- Jim Soares: Send contact for APHIS Wildlife Services to Commissioner Zarnowitz at ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov to invite for certain topics moving forward

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

The meeting ended at 5:00 pm.