



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Commission is being asked to adopt season dates and bag limits for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 seasons for furbearer harvest. Furbearer regulations are adopted on a two-year basis. Regulations were set by Commission action in June 2024 and current regulations will expire June 30, 2026.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Furbearer Program uses a structured, data-driven approach to ensure sustainable management of Oregon’s furbearer species. Each regulatory cycle builds upon field data, mandatory reporting, and communication with a broad range of stakeholders. The regulation proposals reflect this ongoing work, combining biological monitoring, harvest trends, and stakeholder input to guide staff recommendations. These efforts help maintain healthy wildlife populations while supporting responsible trapping and hunting opportunities across the state.

Development of these proposals is informed by collaboration with professional work groups, damage-management cooperatives, researchers, user organizations, and individual members of the public. Through these discussions, ODFW staff gain insight into emerging issues, changes in harvest pressure, species distribution, and concerns related to access, land management, or ecosystem health. This outreach ensures that proposed regulations are grounded both in biological science and feedback from those engaged in furbearer management and recreation.

Together with harvest reporting, jaw collection, CITES compliance, and newly expanded spatial datasets, this broad input allows the department to analyze population status, identify long-term trends, and evaluate the effectiveness of previous regulations. The resulting proposals are designed to balance sustainable use, conservation needs, and statutory requirements, forming the basis for recommended adjustments to Oregon’s furbearer regulations for the upcoming seasons.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- In anticipation of the Commission consideration of the proposed rules, the department published notice of the proposed rulemaking (Attachment 2).
- Additionally, the public has an opportunity to provide comment prior to (in writing) or during the hearing (orally) that occurs at the Commission meeting.
- Communication with local sporting groups, state and federal agencies, Oregon Trappers Association, Oregon United Sporting Dog Association, Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Forestry, Center for Biological Diversity, working groups, wildlife professionals, and other interested parties was received and meetings coordinated.
- Questions from interested persons, including the news media, were answered.

ISSUE 1

Proposals for 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 Furbearer Harvest and Pursuit Season Regulations are presented in Attachment 3.

ANALYSIS

Background, analysis, and recommendations for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Regulations are provided in Attachment 3. These proposals are informed by available data on harvest, catch per unit effort, market prices, license trends, and reporting from the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 seasons, as well as communication with public stakeholders. Because late reports will continue to be submitted through much of the 2026–2027 license year, the 2025–2026 dataset will remain incomplete for nearly another year. However, 2025 data are included when available and of public interest, such as newly expanded beaver harvest information.

This regulation cycle also includes implementation of Oregon House Bill 3932 (2025). The bill prohibits recreational or commercial take of beaver within areas classified by the Department of Environmental Quality as Category 4 or Category 5 waters under the federal Clean Water Act, when those waters occur on, flow through, or adjoin public land. The department is required to identify these areas in statewide maps, updated every two years in consultation with DEQ. The first such publication is the 2025–2027 Oregon Beaver Harvest Closure Map, and staff proposals incorporate the required harvest closures accordingly.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations.
2. Amend staff recommendations.
3. No action (maintain 2024-2026 harvest regulations).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve staff proposals as shown in Attachment 3 and amend Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 635, Division 050 as proposed by staff and shown in Attachment 4, to set regulations and seasons for the harvest and pursuit of furbearing mammals.

Effective Date: *Upon Filing*