

Exhibit C

**Public Correspondence Received as
of
July 24, 2026**



STAFF SUMMARY

Proposed Rules Establishing Trap Check Requirements for Bear and Cougar Taken for Damage, Nuisance, and Safety

Background

At the August 14 meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt rules establishing trap-check requirements when traps are used to take bear or cougar in response to damage, nuisance issues, or safety concerns. The Commission previously directed department staff to develop draft rules for consideration following public testimony requesting trap-check requirements for these species due to concerns about the welfare of trapped animals.

Black bear and cougar are classified as game mammals. Because of this classification, traps are not a legal method of take during hunting seasons. However, they may be taken with traps under specific circumstances related to damage, public nuisance, or public safety, as authorized under ORS 498.012 and ORS 498.166. In all other situations where traps are used, trap-check requirements already exist: traps set for fur-bearing mammals must be checked every 48 hours by statute, and traps set for predatory animals must be checked every 48 hours by administrative rule. These established trap-check requirements do not currently apply to traps set for bear or cougar.

Any bear or cougar that is trapped for damage or safety purposes must be disposed of consistent with requirements in OAR 635-002-0007 through 0009. As edible wildlife, disposal options for black bear include utilization for human consumption through release of the carcass to the landowner who incurred the damage, donation to charitable organizations, or donated to eligible low income or medically qualified individuals. While other disposal options for black bear (rendering, landfill), in practice, utilization for human consumption is prioritized whenever possible.

Public involvement

The Department has collected feedback from affected landowners/trappers, as well as animal welfare advocates, to help inform the proposed rules. Additional information will be collected during this public rulemaking process and considered by the Commission.

Overview of proposed rule changes

The Department is proposing rules that balance two key considerations: limiting the amount of time a trapped animal may be restrained, while ensuring that trapping remains a viable tool for addressing conflicts involving bears and cougars and ensuring the beneficial use of any trapped animals. The proposed rule reads:

OAR 635-043-0058

Trap Check Times for Bear and Cougar

A person that sets a trap or snare pursuant to ORS 498.012 for the purpose of taking bear or cougar that has caused damage, is a public nuisance, or poses a public health risk, or pursuant to ORS 498.166 for the purpose of taking a bear or cougar posing a threat to human safety, shall be responsible for ensuring the trap or snare is inspected and all trapped animals removed:

- a) at least once every other calendar day, and
- b) within a period that does not exceed 56 hours.

These proposed rules would:

- Establish a maximum time period that an animal could potentially remain in a trap.
- Provide an adequate time window to accommodate salvage of edible meat.
- Clarify that the person who set the trap is responsible for ensuring it is checked within the time interval while also allowing another person to conduct the check.
- Retain current carcass disposal rules bear and cougar.
- Retain current bear and cougar hunting regulations.

Staff considered, but did not propose, a 48-hour trap check requirement due to the time needed to salvage a bear carcass for human consumption. Salvage requires, at minimum, field dressing, and in certain weather conditions may necessitate immediate transport to a meat processor to prevent spoilage. A 48-hour requirement would not allow someone checking traps every other day sufficient time to salvage a bear carcass without risk of becoming non-compliant with trap check requirements for traps not yet checked that day.

Staff also considered, but did not propose, a longer trap check interval to avoid the possibility that an animal could remain in a trap for more than two days.

The proposed rule specifies that the person who sets a trap is responsible for ensuring that the trap is checked within the required time and that any captured animal is removed. However, another person—such as a coworker, employee, or landowner—may conduct the trap check. This flexibility accommodates business operations, land management, and agency needs, including coverage during unexpected absences.

Why these changes are needed

Landowners or their agents may take a bear or cougar that has caused damage, is a public nuisance, or is a public health threat without a permit, provided the conditions of ORS 498.012 are met. ORS 498.166 establishes criteria for taking a bear or cougar that is a threat to human safety. Currently, no trap check requirements exist for traps used under ORS 498.012 or ORS 498.166. The proposed rules would establish trap check intervals and require timely removal of captured animals.

Exhibit C. Attachment 4. Staff Response to Public Comment

#	Number of Commentors	Comment Summary	Staff Response to Comment
1.	90	Trapping of bears and cougar should not be allowed.	By statute, landowners may take a bear or cougar at a time or under circumstances take is prohibited by the Commission if certain conditions are met and the bear or cougar has caused damage, is a public nuisance, or poses a public health risk. Therefore, it is outside the Commission scope of authority to prohibit the use of traps.
2.	89	Trap check requirement should be every 24 hours	The staff proposal is based on a 48 hour trap check framework (every other calendar day) with an extension of up to 56 hours to accommodate salvage of bear meat for consumption in accordance with carcass disposal rules (OAR 635-002-0007).
3.	70	General support for humane treatment of wildlife, reducing suffering, etc., but not specific recommendation on trap check intervals or the proposed rule.	Staff proposal seeks to balance animal welfare with the statutory requirement to provide landowners ability to resolve wildlife conflict, and provide adequate time window to salvage meat for consumption.
4.	68	Trap check requirement should be every 48 hours.	The staff proposal is based on a 48 hour trap check framework (every other calendar day) with an extension of up to 56 hours to accommodate salvage of bear meat for consumption in accordance with carcass disposal rules (OAR 635-002-0007).
5.	63	Trap check requirement should be every 48 hours but a requirement of 24 hours would be even better.	The staff proposal is based on a 48 hour trap check framework (every other calendar day) with an extension of up to 56 hours to accommodate salvage of bear meat for consumption in accordance with carcass disposal rules (OAR 635-002-0007).

6.	41	General support for establishment of trap check times with general statement that interval should be short or 56 hours is too long but without recommendation for a specific time interval	Staff proposal will establish trap check requirements and seeks to balance animal welfare with the statutory requirement to allow landowners to resolve wildlife conflict, and provide an adequate time window to salvage meat for consumption..
7.	21	General opposition to the proposed rules without suggestion for amendment.	By statute, landowners may take a bear or cougar that has caused damage, is a public nuisance, or poses a public health risk . The proposed rules maintain this allowance but establish sideboards for animal welfare.
8.	8	Support proposed rule for trap check requirement of 56 hours.	No response.
9.	1	Trap check requirement should be every 36 hours.	The staff proposal is based on a 48 hour trap check framework (every other calendar day) with an extension of up to 56 hours to accommodate salvage of bear meat for consumption in accordance with carcass disposal rules (OAR 635-002-0007).
10.	1	Trap check requirement should be every 18 hours.	The staff proposal is based on a 48 hour trap check framework (every other calendar day) with an extension of up to 56 hours to accommodate salvage of bear meat for consumption in accordance with carcass disposal rules (OAR 635-002-0007).
11.	1	Opposed to establishment of trap check times as requirements will interfere with private landowner ability to protect property.	Staff proposal to establish trap check requirements is not expected to interfere with landowner ability to utilize traps as a tool to resolve bear or cougar conflict but will establish sideboards for animal welfare.

Oregon Trappers Association

July 24, 2026

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission Re: **Support** for Proposed Bear Damage Management Trap-Check Rules

Chair Wahl, Vice-Chair Hatfield-Hyde, and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules establishing trap-check requirements for bear damage management. The Oregon Trappers Association supports the draft rules and appreciates the collaborative process that brought wildlife managers, forest landowners, and experienced bear-damage practitioners together to develop a workable, humane, and field-realistic framework.

OTA represents licensed, trained, and certified wildlife-damage control trappers who work directly with ODFW, private forestland owners, and industrial timber producers to protect young reforestation projects from chronic bear damage. Our members operate under rigorous standards and share the public's commitment to responsible, humane wildlife management. They also understand—better than anyone—the practical challenges of ADC work across large landscapes, in severe weather, and under demanding time constraints.

Most of Oregon's bears coexist harmoniously with forest management. They are an integral part of Oregon's working lands, and OTA members value seeing them on the ground. However, a small number of bears develop habitual bark-stripping behavior that can cause severe, localized damage to young stands. These behaviors are persistent, learned, and—if left unaddressed—can jeopardize reforestation success and undermine Oregon's statutory requirement to promptly and effectively reforest harvested areas.

The financial impacts of chronic bear damage are significant. In some regions, private timberland owners report losses reaching hundreds of thousands of dollars annually due to repeated bark stripping and mortality in young stands. Unlike livestock producers who may access compensation for wolf depredation, forest landowners have no comparable mechanism to offset bear-related losses. When essential ADC tools are restricted without any form of damage compensation, it risks eroding landowner tolerance for bears on working forestlands, something neither the state nor the forest sector wants to see.

The proposed rules support a focused, selective, and humane management approach. They preserve the ability to remove only those individual bears exhibiting chronic destructive behavior, while ensuring the overwhelming majority of Oregon's bear

population remains undisturbed. This targeted strategy mirrors ODFW's broader conflict-response philosophy: address the specific animal responsible for repeated damage, not the population at large.

The draft timeframes also reflect the realities of field-based wildlife damage management. Bear-damage practitioners often work across multiple ownerships and large landscapes, responding to damage patterns that can shift quickly. Trained professionals care deeply about animal welfare, but they also face real-world challenges—intense storms, washed-out roads, vehicle breakdowns, and remote trap locations. A trap-check interval that balances humane expectations with the operational realities of ADC work is essential to maintaining both effectiveness and safety.

OTA also recognizes that some bear-damage practitioners have expressed frustration and concern about the rule-development process. OTA and OFIC were in continuous communication with the two primary bear-damage cooperatives throughout this effort, and we understand the broader context: a steady winnowing of integrated ADC tools and increasing pressure on wildlife-damage management activities statewide. The proposed rules represent a practical, defensible framework that preserves the ability to address chronic bear damage while meeting the Commission's expectations for humane practices.

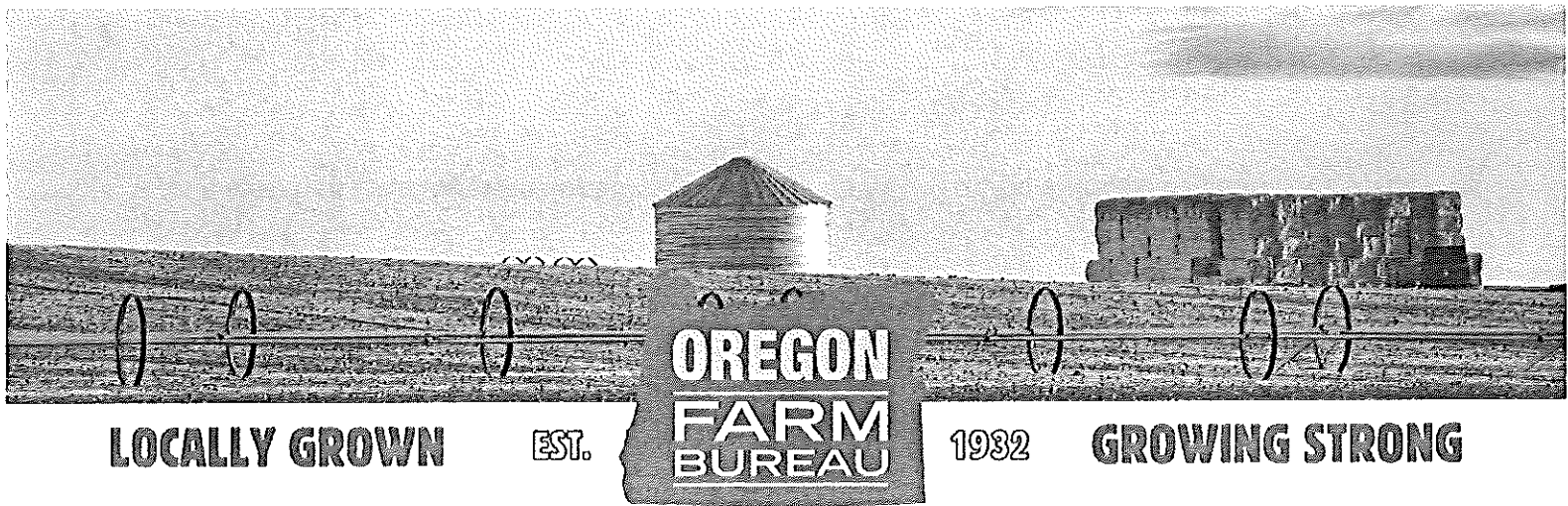
Oregon has one of the largest black bear populations in the nation. With that abundance comes a responsibility to manage bears in a way that protects both wildlife and the working landscapes that support Oregon's economy, communities, and forest stewardship traditions. The state has clear statutory authority—and obligation—to manage wildlife damage to agriculture, timber, and private property. That responsibility must remain front-and-center in coexistence discussions.

For these reasons, the Oregon Trappers Association supports adoption of the proposed rules. They reflect a balanced, informed, and practical approach that protects animal welfare, supports Oregon's reforestation mandate, and maintains an essential wildlife-management tool used sparingly, professionally, and responsibly.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your continued commitment to responsible, effective, science-based wildlife management on Oregon's working landscapes.

United in Conservation,

Stan Steele, Director – Government Affairs
Oregon Trappers Association



July 24, 2026

Re: Establishment of Trap Check Requirements for Bear and Cougar Taken for Damage, Nuisance, and Safety

Dear Chair Wahl and Commission Members –

Oregon Farm Bureau is the state's most inclusive agricultural organization, proudly representing more than 6,500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber, with operations spanning just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods, including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rules establishing trap check requirements for bears and cougars taken due to damage, nuisance, and safety concerns. The proposed rules seek to establish maximum time intervals during which a bear or cougar may remain in a trap while recognizing trapping as an important wildlife management tool. As these rules are being considered, it is also important that they reflect the realities faced by Oregon's farmers and ranchers. Any trap check requirements should remain practical and reasonable for those managing livestock operations and protecting private property across Oregon's diverse landscapes.

Farmers and ranchers rely on trapping as a fundamental tool to address conflicts with bears and cougars that threaten livestock, property, and safety. Trap locations are often on large agricultural lands in remote and geographically isolated areas where access may be affected by weather and terrain. We request that ODFW take these realities into consideration while assessing the proposed rules.

Oregon Farm Bureau has long supported trapping as an important and necessary tool for wildlife management, livestock protection, and damage control. OFB supports trap check requirements that are practical, species-appropriate, and allow trapping to remain an effective management tool while recognizing that a single trap check standard is not appropriate for every circumstance. OFB encourages the Department to take a similarly

practical, species-specific approach when adopting trap check requirements for bears and cougars.

Oregon Farm Bureau recognizes ODFW's proposed rules as a balanced approach that promotes humane trapping practices and animal welfare while preserving trapping as an effective tool. OFB is confident the proposed rules will help preserve the ability of farmers and ranchers to protect their livestock, property, and livelihoods from conflicts.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Kuenzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lauren Kuenzi

Oregon Farm Bureau

lkuenzi@oregonfb.org



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission

Re: Support for Draft Trap Check Rules

Dear Chair Wahl and Commission members,

The Oregon Forest Industries Council appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of the proposed rules establishing bear and cougar trap-check requirements. We believe the draft rules strike an appropriate balance between ensuring humane practices and preserving a critical wildlife management tool the forest sector uses judiciously to support healthy young forests.

OFIC represents roughly 50 Oregon industrial timberland owners and wood products manufacturers. Our members help meet society's growing need for green building products by proudly making Oregon the number one national supplier of softwood lumber, plywood and engineered wood products. They do this while adhering to the most advanced forest practices in the country, also making Oregon the number one state in sustainable forestry.

Oregon's private forestland owners share the public's appreciation for wildlife. Most bears coexist harmoniously with active forest management and are an important part of Oregon's forests. Landowners value seeing bears on the landscape and recognize the important ecological role they play. The overwhelming majority of bears never cause conflicts with forest management.

However, a small number of bears sometimes develop atypical behaviors that can cause significant damage to young forests. Some individual bears strip bark from young trees, often teaching this behavior to other bears and establishing localized patterns of damage that persist over time. Left unaddressed, these behaviors can jeopardize young forests and undermine Oregon's commitment to maintaining healthy, working forests.

For these reasons, the ability to remove individual bears exhibiting this behavior is a critical management tool. This approach is focused, selective and limited to individual animals exhibiting habitual destructive behavior - not on reducing overall bear populations. Precision removal allows wildlife managers and landowners to address the specific animals responsible for recurring damage while allowing the vast majority of Oregon's bear population to remain undisturbed.

This focused management philosophy mirrors the approach ODFW uses in other situations involving human-wildlife conflict. When individual bears repeatedly enter communities, rummage through garbage, damage property or break into buildings, the agency has tools available to address those specific problem animals. Likewise, forest managers need practical tools to address the small number of bears whose habitual behavior threatens the health of Oregon's forests.

Ensuring the health of young forests is not only important for private landowners, it is fundamental to Oregon's forests. State law requires prompt reforestation following harvest, and landowners must ensure new forests successfully establish and continue to provide wildlife



habitat, clean water, carbon storage, recreation opportunities and renewable wood products for future generations. Protecting young forests during their most vulnerable years is an essential component of sustainable forest management.

The proposed timeframes also appropriately support an efficient cooperative model in which experienced, highly trained trappers work on behalf of multiple landowners. This approach ensures problem animals can be removed safely, professionally and with high standards of animal welfare.

OFIC supports the draft rules because they reflect a balanced, informed approach that protects animal welfare while preserving an essential management tool.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these rules and for your continued commitment to balancing wildlife conservation with the needs of Oregon's working landscapes.

Sincerely,

Chad Washington
Director of Forest Protection

Oregon Forest Industries Council



July 23, 2026

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

RE: Rulemaking Regarding Trap Check Requirement for Game Mammals (OAR: 635-043-0058)

Dear Chair Wahl, Vice-Chair Hatfield-Hyde, Director Colbert, and members of the Commission:

On behalf of the member organizations of the Oregon Wildlife Coalition and wildlife and conservation partners in Oregon, we respectfully request that the proposed rule amending OAR 635-043-0058 be strengthened to require that a person who sets a trap targeting black bears or cougars be required to check the trap every 24 hours, as that would align with humane standards utilized by other states.

Several of our member organizations participated in the Trap Check Work Group convened by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2021-2022. As a result, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a standardized 48-hour trap check time requirement for restraining traps used on unprotected mammals and predatory animals, consistent with furbearer trap check times. The proposed rulemaking presents an opportunity to extend that same thoughtful approach to black bears and cougars.

This rulemaking also represents one of the first significant opportunities to implement the vision of HB 4134. That historic investment included dedicated funding for the Wildlife Stewardship/Coexistence Program to help Oregon proactively prevent and respond to wildlife conflicts through education, coexistence efforts, and science-based wildlife management. As one of the Commission's earliest major wildlife policy decisions following passage of HB 4134, this rule provides an important opportunity to demonstrate Oregon's commitment to reducing unnecessary suffering, improving consistency in wildlife management, and advancing coexistence whenever possible.

Black bears and cougars occupy a unique place in Oregon law. Unlike furbearers, they cannot be trapped for recreation or commercial harvest. Trapping is authorized only as a limited exception to address specific conflicts such as property damage, livestock depredation, or public safety concerns. Because trapping these species is permitted only as an exception, not as a general trapping opportunity, such activities should be governed by Oregon's strongest humane standards, not weaker ones. The Commission previously established a 48-hour trap-check requirement for other restraining traps because it recognized that more frequent checks reduce suffering, improve the survival of non-target animals, and create a clear statewide standard. We respectfully question why the Commission would now establish a longer trap-check interval for black bears and cougars, species afforded greater protections under Oregon law, rather than apply that same standard required for other trapped species or apply stronger requirements for bears and cougars which are trapped only under specific circumstances. Looser regulations should address truly exceptional circumstances, not become the default standard.

1. ODFW should institute a standard and more humane 24-hour trap check time for trappers

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, in its *Trapper Education Manual* strenuously recommends a 24-hour trap check time for animal welfare reasons, and it addresses trapper hardship issues as well. IAFWA writes:

Make a commitment to check your traps at least once every day: When you set out a trapline, you assume responsibilities. *Animal welfare is a top priority.* Most furbearers are nocturnal so it is best to check your live-restraining traps at first light each morning. If you cannot check them at daylight, check them as early in the day as possible. One important difference between trapping and hunting is *your commitment to work your trapline every day until you remove your traps.* Hunters can choose the days they want to hunt, *but trappers must check their sets every day.* *Bad weather or other problems should not change your plans.* If you cannot personally fulfill your responsibility to wildlife and fellow trappers because of illness have another licensed trapper check your line. If a licensed friend or family member knows where your sets are located they can check or remove your traps for you. Keep notes and sketches showing where to find your traps.¹

We believe a 24-hour trap check time for all species in all traps is most humane and reflects standard practice adopted by most U.S. states. However, we fully acknowledge and appreciate the Commission's 2022 decision to require a 48-hour trap check time for "predatory animals" and unprotected mammals. Still, a glaring omission remains: there is still no required trap check time for "game mammals" such as black bears and cougars. As a result, these iconic and intelligent species can remain in traps or snares for days, weeks, or even longer, exposed to severe weather, dehydration, injury, stress, and prolonged suffering until an agent or landowner arrives to kill them.² **We appreciate that ODFW staff convened a stakeholder workgroup in May 2026 and moved forward with rulemaking to establish trap check times for bears and cougars in order to close this gap.**

A 24-hour trap check time would be most humane and would not affect recreational trappers, instead providing requirements for any persons operating under ORS 498.012 or ORS 498.166, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services' agents, state agency staff, private landowners, and other authorized agents. At the very least, a 48-hour trap check time for game mammals would establish a uniform standard and provide a common-sense baseline of animal welfare protection for Oregon's valued wild mammals, creating consistency across Oregon's trapping regulations and strengthening safeguards for nontarget wildlife and pets.

All trappers, including Wildlife Services, Wildlife Control Operators, agents, and landowners should be held to a consistent standard and required to check traps and snares every 24 hours or 48-hours *at the very most*, in order to reduce suffering and to align with both professional wildlife handling standards and the public's animal welfare values.³

State regulations are a necessary backstop to trapping operations conducted by USDA Wildlife Services, private landowners, and other authorized individuals.

USDA Wildlife Services, as well as landowners and their agents, routinely utilize traps and snares to kill hundreds of bears in Oregon in response to timber damage, property or livestock losses, and human safety concerns. In 2023 and 2024, Wildlife Services killed 178 Oregon bears captured in foot/leg snares, 35 in culvert traps, 12 in cage traps, and 9 in neck snares.⁴ In 2024, Wildlife Services killed 31 cougars captured in leghold traps, 2 in neck snares, and 1 in a cage trap.⁵

Wildlife Services' Directive 2.450 states that "[t]he use of all traps, snares (cable device), and other animal capture devices by WS employees *will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations* related to animal capture for managing wildlife damage" [emphasis added].⁶ In that directive and in other

documents, Wildlife Services lauds the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping as "guidelines as a basis for policy formation."⁷ It is crucial to note, however, that AFWA does not provide any BMPs for the trapping or snaring of black bears or cougars. In the absence of species-specific guidance, Oregon's regulations play an important role in establishing minimum standards for trap monitoring.

Wildlife Services personnel are not the only individuals authorized to set traps for bears and cougars. Under ORS 498.012, any person with written authority from the landowner or lawful occupant of the land can trap bears and cougars without a permit. Because private parties have this authorized freedom to trap, Wildlife Services accounts for only a portion of trapping activity. For example, in 2024 Wildlife Services reported trapping 107 bears, representing approximately 53% of the total number of bears trapped in Oregon; and 34 cougars, representing approximately 52% of the total number of Oregon cougars trapped. See Figure 1.

Given the lack of any regulatory framework for trapping bears and cougars by both agencies and the public, it is especially critical that ODFW establish a mandatory trap check time for those species.

A 24-hour trap check requirement would greatly increase accountability, improve consistency, **and** reduce unnecessary suffering inflicted on black bears and cougars. Even if Wildlife Services, agents and landowners already intend to check their traps/snares within 48 hours, there is no enforceable statewide requirement or mechanism for public oversight.

Figure 1. Oregon black bear and cougar taken on damage, safety and nuisance during the period 2021 to 2025.

Number of large carnivores taken by traps in Oregon		
Year	Bears	Cougars
2021	200	47
2022	295	60
2023	215	49
2024	202	66
2025	177	62

Information based on data received at Wildlife Health Lab, shared by Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator Brian Wolfer via email on May 13, 2026.⁸

If a 24-hour trap check simply cannot be achieved during this rulemaking process, a mandated 48-hour trap check time at the very most for black bears and cougars would at least create consistency with the trap check times for furbearers and unprotected mammals, streamlining enforcement and setting forth a minimum welfare of all trapped animals.

The longer an animal remains in any type of trap or snare, the more time they will spend struggling, in distress and becoming more severely injured. More frequent trap checks reduce the duration and severity of these impacts. Please see the appendix below for more detailed information on the manner and severity of damage caused by various trap types used in Oregon.

A 24-hour trap check time would also improve outcomes for non-target animals. In 2024, Wildlife Services reported 17 non-target captures in trap types used for black bears and cougars, including domestic dogs and cats, gray and red foxes, striped and spotted skunks, and bobcats. At least three of those animals died. The non-target capture reporting process for other parties operating under ORS 498.012 is unclear,

underscoring the need for consistent statewide standards. Please see the appendix below for more detailed discussion regarding non-target captures in the trap types used for bears and cougars.

Beausoleil et al. (2022) warn that, "...mammal welfare is necessary to support ethical wildlife management practice and policy and to retain social acceptance of management programs that involve trapping."⁹ Trap check times therefore need to be standardized for all government and non-government trapping operations alike.

For these reasons, we thank ODFW for their efforts to establish a trap check time requirement for black bears and cougars, **and we ask that the proposed rule be modified to a 24-hour trap check time, or 48-hours at the maximum.** While 56 hours is a significant improvement from no trap check time requirement, 24 hours is the most humane standard, and 48 hours would align with existing trap check requirements for other Oregon species and will improve the welfare of trapped animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Oregon Wildlife Coalition

Member organizations include:

Bird Alliance of Oregon

Cascadia Wildlands

Defenders of Wildlife

Humane World for Animals

Humane Voters Oregon

Oregon Wild

Think Wild

Willamette Riverkeeper

Western Environmental Law Center

Ann Vileisis

President

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Brooks Fahy

Executive Director

Predator Defense

Adam Bronstein

Oregon Director

Western Watersheds Project

Mary Fleischmann

Chapter Leader

Bitterbrush Broadband – Central/Eastern Chapter
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Wally Sykes

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Northeast Oregon Ecosystems

Michelle Lute, PhD

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Wildlife for All

Noah Greenwald, M.S.

Endangered Species Director

Center for Biological Diversity

Dr. Cierra Buer

Oregon Representative

Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance

Nancy Warren

Executive Director

National Wolfwatcher Coalition

Attachment:

Spreadsheet, "Trap-check time, by state"

Appendix "A"

1. The injuries and suffering caused by traps and snares worsen the longer the animal is left restrained.

Trapped animals suffer from exposure, thirst, hunger, anxiety, fear, pain, and distress.¹⁰ Most Americans do not consider trapping “fair chase” hunting.¹¹ While trapping animals and selling their furs and body parts may (or may not) prove beneficial to one trapper, it harms the public's trust in wildlife management, individual animals, social bonds between animals, and ultimately, ecosystems themselves.¹² Trapping the public's wildlife and selling their body parts, including fur, is called “market hunting” and is a forbidden tenant of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.¹³

Beausoleil et al. (2022) writes that traps can produce “negative or unpleasant mental experiences” on trapped animals including “thirst, hunger, pain, breathlessness and fear” which causes the animal to react to “try to alleviate or rectify the underlying problem.” Ultimately, these experiences are “detrimental to an animal's current state of welfare” or even survival.¹⁴ These “unpleasant experiences” that an animal is unable to rectify either “through behavioral and physiological responses,” such as thirst or fear, harm an animal's welfare far more than an experience where an animal can control what is happening.¹⁵ Confirming earlier studies, Beausoleil et al. (2022) found that restraining traps that are intended to only hold, rather than kill, an animal can cause death if these traps go unchecked, leaving an animal to die from dehydration or exposure, which according to the AVMA, is not a quick or humane death (2013).¹⁶

Snares, also known as cable restraints, do not discriminate among species. Even foot/leghold snares can cut into an animal's skin and result in pain, injury, and even death. Bears caught in foot snares can endure swelling, fractures, muscle and joint injuries, and dehydration. Black bears caught in leghold snares show significant elevations in the blood serum levels that muscle injury and exertional (capture) myopathy.¹⁷ Animals captured in snares are known to frantically chew on the cable and on their own limbs in attempts to free themselves, breaking teeth, bloodying gums, and causing severe self-injury. Snared animals sustain joint dislocation, severed tendons, and other internal injuries as they fight against the snare or may be hanged to death if they jump over a fence or branch in attempt to escape. Target and non-target animals alike caught in snares may die from exposure, dehydration, or starvation, particularly if snares go unchecked. In field studies, snares have caught non-target wildlife, including deer and domestic dogs.¹⁸ Snares also trap protected wildlife, like golden eagles and bald eagles.¹⁹

Neck snares that are designed to be lethal often do not kill the ensnared animal quickly, instead subjecting them to a drawn out and painful death, underlining experts' recommendations that neck snares be checked at least every 24 hours to end the suffering of an ensnared animal.²⁰ In Wildlife Services' 2019 risk assessment of cable devices (including both neck and foot/leg snares), they repeatedly emphasize that snares are checked frequently *as required by state law*. They also write, “Snares and cable restraints could be used in a variety of habitats; thus, many species of wildlife could be exposed to cable devices used by WS. *As the amount of time between capture and checking the device increases, the risk of injuries also likely increases*” [emphasis added].²¹

Culvert traps, a tunnel-like live-capture trap, can subject bears to fatal overheating as well as dental and jaw injuries from repeated escape attempts.²² Animals captured in **cage traps** can also suffer damage or fractures to their teeth, gums and claws, causing extreme pain.²³ **Leghold traps** can leave animals with injuries that may not be visible without a necropsy as they continuously struggle against the trap, as well as dental injuries, lacerations, and fractures.²⁴ In 2024 alone, Wildlife Services in Oregon recorded 13 non-target species in leghold traps, including four domestic dogs, and three skunks who died in the traps.²⁵

Traps, even researchers' traps, can be deadly to bears.²⁶ Bear biologists have found that using invasive capture techniques (e.g., traps) on the bears they're studying can cause severe injury, trauma and death to these animals as well as to non-target species.²⁷ Bears, especially young individuals, suffer immensely when captured in snares as they struggle vigorously to escape.²⁸ Trapped bears and non-target animals experience pain, shock, and dehydration until they are killed.²⁹ Injuries include: broken limbs and teeth, dislocated shoulders, hemorrhages, claw removal, tendon or ligament lacerations, fractures, joint

dislocation, amputation of digits and/or limbs, physiological stress and/or pain, dehydration, and exposure to severe weather.³⁰

2. The commercial timber industry's silviculture techniques facilitate bears' bark-peeling behaviors

According to Kline et al. (2018), bears peel bark from conifers in early spring to obtain "up to 3.5% soluble sugars in the phloem of trees" after a period of dormancy, and when mast crops (e.g., berries and nuts) are unavailable.³¹ Kline et al. (2018) provide that the timber industry's practice of thinning trees and fertilizing them contributes to concentrations of sugar in trees' vascular tissues, making them even more attractive to hungry black bears.³² Bears prefer fast growing, young trees.³³

The commercial timber industry thins out stands of trees to induce the remaining trees to grow much faster.³⁴ The industry also reduces species diversity by selecting for certain types of trees, grows even-age stands of trees and selects for the best trees—the very trees that bears prefer.³⁵

In other words, these industry-created tree stands are the exact opposite of old growth forests that feature species diversity. Dagley et al. (2018) suggest that bears facilitate old-growth forest restoration.³⁶ Bear "damage" on trees leads to larger "basal cavities" that "are common in old-growth redwood trees (Dagley & Berrill 2012)."³⁷ Also because of so-called "bear damage," trees die faster becoming snags, the home to many cavity-dwelling species, and those snags later become woody debris, characteristic of old-growth forests.³⁸

3. Tree damage attributed to bears is grossly overestimated

In a study of northern California forests, Dagley et al. (2018) found that bears damaged about one-fourth of all the trees in plots *where thinning occurred*, but bears damaged only about 8% of trees on the unthinned control plots.³⁹ Remarkably, *only about 5% of the bear-damaged redwoods died.*⁴⁰ Bears damaged far fewer Douglas-fir trees, in a range between 13% and 16%, and in the unthinned Douglas-fir stands, bears damaged only about 1% of trees.⁴¹

Taylor et al. (2019) also found that damage to trees is grossly overestimated—*by up to 10-fold*—because the timber industry wrongly attributes tree deaths from root diseases to bears. Taylor et al. (2019) write:

Our results suggest that aerial estimates of black bear damage do not detect trees that are damaged but not killed, while numbers of trees killed by black bears are overestimated due to the influence of multiple root diseases. . . . Our findings suggest that previous estimates of bear peeling may overestimate economic loss by as much as 10-fold at large scales.⁴²

To reduce tree damage by bears, Dagley et al. (2018) suggest that land managers thin fewer trees to compensate for expected losses, or to wait until trees are older and larger before tree-thinning operations begin.⁴³

In short, bears use commercial tree stands in early spring because they prefer young, fast-growing trees that the timber industry creates with its thinning and fertilizing processes. The amount of damage to commercial tree stands, however, is grossly overestimated because of tree root diseases that the industry blames bears. To compensate for bear damage, biologists suggest thinning fewer trees to compensate for expected losses, or to wait until trees are older and larger before tree-thinning operations begin.

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State	Live set trap checks		Kill set trap checks		Coyote classification (predator, furbearer, unprotected, etc.)
Alabama	24 hours[i]		24 hours ^j		Game animal and fur-bearing animal
Alaska	None		None		
Arizona	Daily		Daily		Predatory mammal (coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and skunks)
Arkansas	Daily		72 hours		Nuisance game animal, furbearer
California	Daily		Daily		Nongame mammal
Colorado	Daily[iii]		Daily ⁱⁱ		Furbearer
Connecticut	24 hours		24 hours		Furbearer
Delaware	24 hours[iiii]		24 hours ⁱⁱⁱ		Small game, furbearer
Florida	24 hours		24 hours[i]		Furbearer
Georgia	24 hours		24 hours		Unprotected species
HAWAII	No furbearer trapping		No furbearer trapping		
Idaho	72 hours[iv]		72 hours ^{iv}		
Illinois	Daily		Daily		furbearer
Indiana	24 hours		24 hours		furbearer
Iowa	24 hours		24 hours[ii]		Furbearer

Kansas	Daily	Daily	
Kentucky	24 hours	24 hours	
Louisiana	Daily	Daily	
Maine	Daily	Daily[iii]	Furbearer
Maryland	Daily[v]	Daily ^v	Furbearer
Massachusetts	Daily	Daily, if fully submerged it is every 2 days	
Michigan	Daily[vi]	None	Small game, furbearer
Minnesota	Daily	Every three days	furbearer
Mississippi	36 hours	36 hours	nuisance animal
Missouri	Daily	48 hours	Furbearer
Montana	None	None	
Nebraska	Daily	Every two days	nongame mammal
Nevada	96 hours[vii]	96 hours ^{vii}	
New Hampshire	Daily	Daily[iv]	

New Jersey	24 hours	24 hours	
New Mexico	Daily	Daily	Unprotected furbearer (coyote and skunk)
New York	24 or 48 hours[viii]	24 or 48 hours [viii]	
North Carolina	Daily	Daily[v]	
North Dakota	None	None	
Ohio	Daily	Daily	
Oklahoma	24 hours	24 hours	Predatory mammal (coyote and wolf)
Oregon	48 hours for furbearers	30 days	Predatory
Pennsylvania	36 hours	36 hours	
Rhode Island	24 hours	24 hours	

South Carolina	Daily	24 hours (if fully submerged it's 48 hours)	
South Dakota	72 hours[x]	72 hours ^x	
Tennessee	36 hours	72 hours	
Texas	36 hours	36 hours	
Utah	48 hours	96 hours[vii]	
Vermont	Daily	Daily ^{xiii}	
Virginia	Daily	Daily unless fully submerged than 72 hours	
Washington	24 hours	72 hours	
West Virginia	Daily	Daily	
Wisconsin	Daily	Daily, unless fully submerged than it's every 4 days.	
Wyoming	72 hours[xi]	Weekly ^{xi}	

[i] 72 hours for water sets.

[i] Only snares allowed.

[ii] Most sets are constitutionally prohibited in Colorado. See Colo. Const. art. XVIII, § 12b. An exemption from the constitutional prohibition and the normal trap check requirements is granted to persons on their own land primarily used for commercial agriculture, to protect that agriculture. See id.; Colo. Rev. Stat. § 33-6-207.

[ii] Drowning sets exempted.

[iii] Muskrat traps exempted.

[iii] Drowning sets every three days, or every five days in unincorporated/unorganized areas; sets under ice set for beaver or muskrat exempted.

[iv] “Unprotected rodents” exempted; in effect, all rodents except for beavers. *Compare* Idaho Admin. Code § 13.01.16.010.01 *with id.* § 13.01.16.010.03 (definitions of “furbearing animals” and “unprotected wildlife”).

[v] Every two days for water sets.

[vi] Except: 1) in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (“Zone 1”), where the interval is 48 hours; and 2) for licensed trappers using multi-animal cage sets, for whom there is no requirement. *See* Mich. Wildlife Conservation Order § 1.2(21) – (23) for the definitions of Zones 1, 2, and 3.

[vii] Generally, some units require an interval of every other day for some sets.

[iv] Except sets for beaver under ice, then every three days.

[v] Except for drowning set Conibears, then 72 hours.

[vi] 48 hours for drowning sets.

[vii] Except for lethal snares without a relaxing lock or stop set to an immovable object, which have a 96 hour requirement.

[viii] 48 hours for some wildlife management units ("WMU"), 48 hours for some sets in other WMUs.

[ix] Predator trapping exempted, though must still be checked "on a regular basis."

[x] 96 hours if west of the Missouri River.

[xi] Snares and quick-kill body traps exempted. These must be checked once each calendar week except for the first week in which the trap was set.

[viii] Drowning set
Conibears exempted.

Different trap check time for coyotes?		Code/reg/law for live set trap checks	Code/reg/law for kill set trap checks
No		<u>Ala. Code § 9-11-266</u>	<u>Ala. Code § 9-11-266</u>
		N/A	N/A
No;	"A trapper may only trap predatory and fur-bearing animals during trapping seasons established by Commission Order." "A trapper shall: 1. Inspect traps daily;"	<u>Ariz. Admin. Code § 12-4-307(G)(1)</u>	<u>Ariz. Admin. Code § 12-4-307(G)(1)</u>
No		<u>002-00-001 Ark. Code R. §17.02</u>	<u>002-00-001 Ark. Code R. §17.02</u>
No		<u>Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 465.5(g)(2)</u>	<u>Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 465.5(g)(2)</u>
No		<u>Colo. Code Regs. § 406-3 #302(B)(2)</u>	<u>Colo. Code Regs. § 406-3 #302(B)(2)</u>
No		<u>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 26-72</u>	<u>Conn. Gen. Stat. § 26-72</u>
No		<u>Del. Code tit. 7, § 705</u>	<u>Del. Code tit. 7, § 705</u>
No		<u>Fla. Admin. Code r. 68A-24.002(1)</u>	<u>Fla. Admin. Code r. 68A-24.002(1)</u>
No		<u>Ga. Code § 27-3-63(a)(3)</u>	<u>Ga. Code § 27-3-63(a)(3)</u>
		<u>Haw. Admin. Code § 13-123-22</u>	<u>Haw. Admin. Code § 13-123-22</u>
		<u>Idaho Admin. Code § 13.01.16.200.01</u>	<u>Idaho Admin. Code § 13.01.16.200.01</u>
No		<u>520 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/2.33a</u>	<u>520 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/2.33a</u>
No		<u>Ind. Code § 14-22-6-4</u>	<u>Ind. Code § 14-22-6-4</u>
No		<u>Iowa Code § 481A.92</u>	<u>Iowa Code § 481A.92</u>

No	https://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Hunting-Regulations/Furbearers/Trap-Tagging-and-Tending	https://ksoutdoors.com/Hunting/Hunting-Regulations/Furbearers/Trap-Tagging-and-Tending
No	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 150.410(2)	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 150.410(2)
No	La. Rev. Stat. § 56:260(A)	La. Rev. Stat. § 56:260
No	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 12, § 12255(1)	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 12, § 12255(1)
No	Md. Code Regs. 08.03.06.03(E)	Md. Code Regs. 08.03.06.03(E)
No	321 Mass. Code Regs. 3.02(e)(11)	321 Mass. Code Regs. 3.02(e)(11)
No	Mich. Wildlife Conservation Order § 3.600(12)(a)	Mich. Wildlife Conservation Order § 3.600(12)(a)
No. https://www.leg.mn.gov/docs/2013/other/130924.pdf "Checking traps regularly is one of the most important requirements of responsible trapping. If you cannot check it regularly at the proper time, do not set it."	Minn. R. 6234.2200	Minn. R. 6234.2200
No	Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-13(4)(d)	Miss. Code Ann. § 49-7-13(4)(d)
no	Mo. Code Regs. tit. 3, § 10-8.510(2)	Mo. Code Regs. tit. 3, § 10-8.510(2)
	N/A	N/A
It appears that the trap check time is the same for coyotes but cannot confirm in regulations for nongame species	163 Neb. Admin. Code § 4-001.03A1	163 Neb. Admin. Code § 4-001.03A1
	Nev. Admin. Code § 503.570(3)	Nev. Admin. Code § 503.152
No but for beaver in the ice during open season it's once every 72 hours.	N.H. Rev. Stat. § 210:13	N.H. Rev. Stat. § 210:13

no		<u>N.J. Admin. Code § 7:25-5.12(i)</u>	<u>N.J. Admin. Code § 7:25-5.12(i)</u>
No; per 2021-2022 NM Furbearer rules, "There is no closed season or bag limit for nongame species such as coyotes and skunks, however, hunters and trappers must still abide by NMDGF rules regarding trapping and hunting."		<u>N.M. Code R. § 19.32.2.11(A)</u>	<u>N.M. Code R. § 19.32.2.11(A)</u>
No. The Southern Region trap check time is all 24 hours. The Northern Region is 24 - 48 hours		<u>N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 6.3(a)(3)</u>	<u>N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 6, § 6.3(a)(3)</u>
No. Also completely submerged conibear traps are 72 hours		<u>15A N.C. Admin. Code 10B.0110</u>	<u>15A N.C. Admin. Code 10B.0110</u>
No		<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>
No		<u>Ohio Admin. Code 1501:31-15-09(G)</u>	<u>Ohio Admin. Code 1501:31-15-09(G)</u>
No. "Any trap set for the purpose of catching any wildlife shall be tended once during each twenty-four (24) hours," with "Wildlife" defined as "all wild birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other wild aquatic forms, and all other animals which normally can be found in the wild state, regardless of classification, whether resident, migratory or imported, protected or unprotected, dead or alive, and shall extend to and include any and every part of any individual species of wildlife, whether or not bred, hatched, or born in captivity, and including any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof."		<u>Okla. Stat. tit. 29, §5-502(C)</u>	<u>Okla. Stat. tit. 29, §5-502(C)</u>
All predatory animals including coyotes: 76 hours for predatory animals (extended to 7 days in damage situations)		<u>Or. Rev. Stat. § 498.172(1)</u>	<u>Or. Rev. Stat. § 498.172</u>
No		<u>34 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2361(a)(10)</u>	<u>34 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2361(a)(10)</u>
No		<u>20 R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-16-9</u>	<u>20 R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-16-9</u>

No	<u>S.C. Code § 50-11-2440</u>	<u>S.C. Code § 50-11-2440</u>
	<u>S.D. Admin. R.</u> <u>41:08:02:03</u>	<u>S.D. Admin. R.</u> <u>41:08:02:03</u>
No	<u>Tenn. Wild. Proc. 18-05</u>	<u>Tenn. Wild. Proc. 18-05</u>
No	<u>31 Tex. Admin. Code §</u> <u>65.375(c)(2)(E)</u>	<u>31 Tex. Admin. Code §</u> <u>65.375(c)(2)(E)</u>
	<u>Utah Admin. Code r. 657-</u> <u>11-9(12)</u>	<u>Utah Admin. Code r. 657-</u> <u>11-9(12)(a)-(c)</u>
No	<u>Vt.</u> <u>https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10appendix/001/00044</u>	<u>Vt. Admin. Code 16-4-</u> <u>137:4.1</u>
No	<u>4 Va. Admin. Code § 15-</u> <u>40-195</u>	<u>4 Va. Admin. Code § 15-</u> <u>40-195</u>
No	<u>Wash. Admin. Code §</u> <u>220-417-030(4)(c)</u>	<u>Wash. Admin. Code §</u> <u>220-417-030(4)(c)</u>
No	<u>W. Va. Code R. § 58-53-</u> <u>3.3</u>	<u>W. Va. Code R. § 58-53-</u> <u>3.3</u>
No	<u>Wis. Admin. Code NR §</u> <u>10.13(2)</u>	<u>Wis. Admin. Code NR §</u> <u>10.13(3)(a)</u>
	<u>040-0001-4 Wyo. Code</u> <u>R. § 9(a)</u>	<u>040-0001-4 Wyo. Code</u> <u>R. § 9(a)</u>



July 17, 2026

Re: Bear and Cougar Trap Check Times

Dear Chair Wahl and Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

On behalf of Think Wild, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules establishing trap check requirements for black bears and cougars captured in response to property damage, livestock conflicts, or public safety concerns. We appreciate the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for proposing the first trap check requirement for these situations.

As a wildlife veterinary hospital and conservation organization serving Central and Eastern Oregon, Think Wild regularly treats wildlife suffering from injuries, stress, dehydration, and exposure. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering, decrease the risk of severe dehydration and irreversible injury, and improve outcomes for both target and non-target animals.

Think Wild strongly supports a 24-hour maximum trap check interval, consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association's recommendation that traps and snares be checked at least every 24 hours to minimize suffering, reduce injuries, and decrease the likelihood that non-target wildlife and domestic animals remain trapped for extended periods. Whether an animal is being relocated or euthanized, it should be attended to as soon as possible to minimize stress and suffering.

If the Commission determines that a 24-hour interval is not feasible, we strongly encourage adopting a firm 48-hour maximum rather than the proposed "every other calendar day" standard, which could allow traps to go unchecked for up to 56 hours.

These traps do not exclusively capture bears and cougars. Non-target wildlife and domestic dogs are occasionally captured as well. In Central Oregon, there have been several well-publicized incidents involving dogs caught in traps near Tumalo Reservoir and Horse Ridge. Because any animal may enter these traps, establishing a longer check interval based solely on the intended target species does not make practical or biological sense.

A 48-hour maximum would also align bear and cougar trapping with Oregon's existing trap check



requirements for other trapped mammals, creating a more consistent standard that is easier for trappers, landowners, wildlife managers, and enforcement personnel to understand and enforce.

Thank you for considering these comments and for taking this important step toward improving wildlife welfare in Oregon. We respectfully urge the Commission to adopt a 24-hour maximum trap check interval, or, at an absolute minimum, a firm 48-hour maximum.

Sincerely,

Sally Compton

Executive Director

Think Wild

Dr. Laura Acevedo, DVM, CWR, EMT

Veterinarian

Think Wild

Dr. Sue Dougherty, DVM, DACVIM, MA

Board Director

Think Wild

Dr. Jon Enyart, DVM

Board Director

Think Wild

ID	Completion time	Name2	Affiliation or type of stakeholder (Ex. general public, state government...)	Comments
2	6/25/26 13:37:59	tom murphy	general public	48 hour checks will be nice, should make it leagel to keep said animals on regular trap line if trapper holds tags for said animal.
3	6/25/26 13:44:38	Emily H.	General public	I think 56 hours is too long between trap checks--considering if an animal is trapped even halfway through that allotted time, it would be in anguish for over 24 hours. If conditions for trapping without a permit have been met, then it's reasonable to assume that said trap is accessible enough to be checked at a shorter interval. Trapping without a permit should be a focused effort if the animal is truly a problem; setting traps without appropriate prep work and research on the circumstances/individual animal doesn't reflect the implied urgency of such a situation. Instead, trapping should be utilized only when the seriousness of the offense committed by the animal can be matched with an equally serious effort to trap the animal. In this way, traps should be seen as a hands-on solution that requires substantial time and energy, including the diligence to check traps at shorter intervals. If the burden of checking them is too high, perhaps trapping the animal isn't the best solution. Thank you.
4	6/25/26 13:45:56	Rhody Elzaghal	General Public	I support the department suggestions for trap check time intervals, however I believe that bear and cougar hunting should be illegal except in cases where an animal has attacked, harmed or killed a person
5	6/27/26 4:19:20	Margie Rick	General public (taxpayer)	Why would there even be debate about checking a trap for a nuisance animal (or any animal)? Of course those traps should be checked and as far as I am concerned 56 hours is too generous but is better than having no specified time as far as removing trapped animals. I urge you to do what is right and ethical as even a "nuisance" animal deserves dignity and not cruelty.
6	7/8/26 9:15:23	Matt de Gruyter	Oregon business owner and concerned citizen	Let's make sure the way we treat our wildlife as stewards.
7	7/8/26 9:15:40	Rochelle Speare	General public	Please check trap every 24 hours which would be the humane standard
8	7/8/26 9:16:27	Pavla Zakova-Laney	general public	Can you imagine your leg or your child's caught in a trap for a week? How does it feel? It IS a TORTURE, nothing less = FELONY;
9	7/8/26 9:16:43	Juanita Garnow	none	check traps at least every 24 hours. better yet, stop using them!
10	7/8/26 9:16:48	Ezra Hockman	General public	Just hoping to reduce any stress or pain for animals, hoping you can make a difference!

11	7/8/26 9:17:30	Marji Peterson	General Public	Please ensure these creatures endure no extra suffering, as they need to exist as well.
12	7/8/26 9:17:49	Terri Betz	general public	Please make certain that these traps are checked in a timely fashion so the animals don't suffer any more than they have to! Thank you!
13	7/8/26 9:17:50	Stacia Fisher	Someone who cares	We shouldn't even HAVE TRAPS!
14	7/8/26 9:17:51	Janeane Harwell	Public	Animal cruelty is a measure of society. Animal traps are cruel.
15	7/8/26 9:18:08	Barbara Methvin	general public	Please eliminate traps for all animals
16	7/8/26 9:18:55	Marty Abut	General public	Eliminate bear and cougar traps all together as they ARE part of the ecosystem we entirely rely on!!
17	7/8/26 9:19:02	Tess Chedsey	General Public, Resident	Trapping is bad enough, why must they suffer further? This rule should have always applied. Please pass this. It is long overdue.
18	7/8/26 9:19:03	diana kekule	GENERAL	PLEASE HELP RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUMANITY! The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing for the first time a trap check requirement for black bears and cougars requiring private landowners, agents and government agencies to check their traps at least every 56 hours. While this would be a meaningful step forward, as there is currently no trap-check requirement at all for bears and cougars, it doesn't go far enough. An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
19	7/8/26 9:19:08	Randy Harrison	general public	I ask the Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours.
20	7/8/26 9:19:13	Kristin Vournaskr	General public	Prevent suffering of trapped animals.
21	7/8/26 9:19:31	Hugh Black	Retired Forest Service biologist	Trapping causes a it of suffering. If necessary traps should be checked every 24 hours. Areas must be well marked to avoided pets being trapped as much as possible.
22	7/8/26 9:20:51	Sherry Monie	General public	I urge you to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.

23	7/8/26 9:21:59	Michael Randall	General Public	Bears deserve humane treatment. Protect these precious creatures. There are far too many humans who don't see the bigger picture. I will defend them. I'd like to see a human in a bear trap. Lauren Boebert would do a great job in a bear, or wolf, trap.
24	7/8/26 9:23:26	Debbi Wood	General public	traps to TheThe wild life traps MUST be checked EVERY 36 HOURS!!! It would inhumanly cruel to leave them trapped any longer!!!! They have done nothing wrong!! They should NOT be tortured!!!!
25	7/8/26 9:24:57	Ann Watters	General public	Check the traps!
26	7/8/26 9:26:18	Sandra Ericson	Human Ecology teacher	When cruelty is either inflicted or allowed to happen, in addition to the needless pain to a living creature, it also inflicts the people who find the animal in agony. Regardless of what is professed, witnessing the cruelty helps to inure the person to cruelty in other contexts, including those with cruelty to people. Mental attitudes that justify cruelty stay with people and become part of them in human life and living. Teach people to be kind instead, make it possible for someone to rescue an animal, and save themselves in the process.
27	7/8/26 9:26:21	Kady Ellifritz	General public	I getthat farmers and ranchers want to limit predation of their livestock. However, we all share the planet and predators do not deserve to suffer in a trap any more than someone's child deserves such a fate. They are just doing what they were put here to do: exist and raise their families. Checking traps as frequently as possible, a MINIMUM of 48 hours, demonstrates that while you raise your family, you still have a soul. cruel to alleviate suffering seems
28	7/8/26 9:27:05	Frankie OFarrell	Public	Please, please don't allow any animal to struggle in pain for days. If they must be trapped do so humanely. Under 24 hrs is best even though not ideal.
29	7/8/26 9:27:15	Dan Burkhalter	General public	Trapping is extremely below the dignity of all humans and should be outlawed period. To suggest that any animal should suffer from the effects of trapping is unconsciounable.le
30	7/8/26 9:28:35	Dennis West	Personal opinion	Traps should have a silent alarm system to notify the trapper which trap has caught something. Then have a limited few hour limit to check the trap. 48 hours to suffer is BS!
31	7/8/26 9:28:48	Tom Beatty	General public	No animal should suffer due to human indifference.
32	7/8/26 9:32:07	Wendy Manley	General Public	Please instate at least a 48 hour trap check time (Preferably 24 hour trap check time) as a requirement to check traps for bears and cougars in Oregon. Thank you.
33	7/8/26 9:33:46	Fern Walker	General public	Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days. I strongly agree there should be a mandatory trap check.

34	7/8/26 9:34:02	Carolyn Talarr	general public resident of Washington County	Please make the rule regarding trap check times even shorter, to 48 hours...it's our responsibility.
35	7/8/26 9:34:30	Lara Martinez	general public	please require that traps be checked at least every 48 hours for the animals wellbeing
36	7/8/26 9:36:35	Christine VanHalder	General public a lover of native wildlife	Animals needs protection not delisting. Endangered Species Act needs to be protected no more delisting.
37	7/8/26 9:39:56	Faith and Jan Wellman	General public	I am asking the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours.
38	7/8/26 9:40:49	Christine Rosencrance	General public	Please think of how the animals will suffer and check traps more frequently.
39	7/8/26 9:45:10	Leslie	general public	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours. There is no justification for leaving these animals to suffer in traps for more than two days.
40	7/8/26 9:47:31	Mrs Jeri Iversen	General public	Man is a plague on nature.
41	7/8/26 9:48:20	Martha Stevens	Concerned naturalist	Traps should be made obsolete and illegal. They don't discriminate and are inhumane. We are better than this!
42	7/8/26 9:48:41	Lisa Matthews	General Public	I urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
43	7/8/26 9:52:10	Amy D Valentine	General Public	While I do not think that trapping animals is right or good, I recognize that it may be a necessary evil. But animals must never be tortured. Leaving them in a trap for more that 24 hours is torture. Please, mandate a 24 hour trap check requirement, and if that cannot be achieved, mandate a 48 hour trap check requirement.
44	7/8/26 9:53:56	James B. Massey NMD	general public	Although I believe bear and cougar traps should be checked every 24 hours I will acquiesce to making it mandatory to check them every 48 hours.
45	7/8/26 9:54:24	Mary Beth South	general public	I don't think that traps should ever be used.
46	7/8/26 9:55:37	Julie Walker	General public	I am writing to encourage the requirement of checking traps for wild animals at 48 hours or less, preferably at 24 hours. Wildlife did not ask us to be here. We are in their soace, snd we owe it to them to try and live with humane intent. Please act compassionately on this issue. Thank you.
47	7/8/26 9:56:48	Yes	None	I like my wildlife wild and alive. Politicians stink, mostly.
48	7/8/26 9:56:51	cornelius matteo	general public	Please check at least every 48 hours if not more frequently.

49	7/8/26 9:56:58	Kristen Buck	general public, Oregonian	I support a trap check requirement for black bears and cougars requiring private landowners, agents and government agencies to check their traps at least every 48 hours
50	7/8/26 9:58:57	M.A. Kruse	General public	56 hours to check bear, cougar or any other wildlife trap is hardly an improvement. Let's call it what it is—inhumanity, cruelty and the less than acceptable treatment of wildlife.
51	7/8/26 10:00:29	Christine Danning	Former Certified Wildlife Rehabber....	As a former certified wildlife rehabber, there needs to be a maximum of 24 hrs. These traps need to be live traps, they need to be checked by ODFW to make sure it is NOT a nursing bear or cougar!!!
52	7/8/26 10:00:42	Erik MacDonald	General Public	Please take a minute to consider moving to a 48 hour check requirement. If people are going to be trapping animals by crushing paws in steel traps, the least they can do is check those traps on a 48 hour basis. If it is too much trouble then why allow this inhuman torture to continue? It's bad enough to allow using leg traps in the 21 century, at least regulate their use in order to reduce these animals' suffering.
53	7/8/26 10:13:28	RJ Schuppert	General Public	Humans making animals suffer has gone on for far too long, please, let's take steps in the humane direction.
54	7/8/26 10:14:39	Pam Rensch	None	Stop the cruel trapping of wildlife
55	7/8/26 10:15:20	Donna Harris	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. A 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard. As a veterinarian knowing that these animals are sentient beings and suffer pain and anxiety like we do, I am against trapping altogether , but taking one step at a time , trap checking within 24 hrs, is as far as I will go.
56	7/8/26 10:22:23	Stacey Carr	General public	Require (horribly cruel) traps be monitored within maximum 48 hours. This isn't okay. It's torture.
57	7/8/26 10:23:35	Mary Troutt	general public	Please stop this inhumane practice
58	7/8/26 10:24:06	Lynn Zurcher Law	General public	Common Sense kind person
59	7/8/26 10:25:34	Lilli Ohse	general public	Traps should be checked every 48 hours!
60	7/8/26 10:27:35	Sara Craig	No	Please require traps to be checked every 48 hours. No one should be made to suffer needlessly. Thank you.
61	7/8/26 10:33:11	Tollie Bohl	General public	I am requesting the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours. Traps are a barbaric practice anyhow, so Oregon needs to step up its requirements to reduce suffering

62	7/8/26 10:35:33	Carole DeBord	Oregon citizen - public	Checking the traps every two days is the only decent thing to do. If trapping is necessary, and you're using taxpayer monies to fund the program, then I say as a taxpayer that there should be no needless suffering.
63	7/8/26 10:40:39	Juan Calvillo	citizen	How long do you think YOU should be left in pain in a trap?
64	7/8/26 10:42:32	Cynthia Kranich	general public	make it a 24 hr trap check requirement. better yet, get rid of leg hold traps all together.
65	7/8/26 10:45:07	Marta	General public	It is unnecessarily cruel
66	7/8/26 10:47:41	Jamie Shields	Individual	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours.
67	7/8/26 10:49:43	Barbara Hazen	General Public	Please strengthen your proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours. Thank you.
68	7/8/26 10:51:54	Linda Skonberg	General public	I am asking you to lower the time required for checking animal traps. It should be no more than 24 hours. 56 hours is much too long to let an animal suffer needlessly. I would advocate for a TotalBan on all trapping.
69	7/8/26 11:04:49	Nathaniel Lundin	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
70	7/8/26 11:09:11	Pam Maxon	general public	Please don't allow wildlife to go unchecked. Cruel traps could cause their deaths. Please protect them! I actually think 48 hours is too long, but better than no checks.
71	7/8/26 11:10:35	Kathleen Garton	general public	I expect our government agencies to be responsible and first of all humane to our wildlife. If anyone is going to trap an animal, be quick in checking any trap. Remember they need water first of all. I recall an insident where some sea lions were placed on a floating deck in cages and left to die because no one thought to check on them once trapped. Sadly many died due to the fact that they live in natural habitat which is water. Basically they were tortured for no good reason other than eating too many fish. That's what they do! OFW, please do the right thing and establish and strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours. That's reasonable and if you need help enlist the public help. Thank you for listening and reading this letter. Most Sincerely, Kathleen Gartonps
72	7/8/26 11:11:20	Chelsie Wong	General public	Please urgently stand up for the humane treatment of trapped animals and decrease the required trap check time to 48 or 24 hours. This matters deeply to me and my loved ones and serves both animals and those who hunt and trap. Thank you for your time and consideration.
73	7/8/26 11:11:47	Andrea Carlstrom	gen public	NO traps would be better

75	7/8/26 11:14:54	Walter	citizen	With inexpensive cameras a trap could show and alert about an animal being trapped so that an immediate response could be taken to minimize the inhumane impact of this despicable action.
76	7/8/26 11:20:25	Elizabeth Sauer	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why I'm urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
77	7/8/26 11:23:00	Lise Hull	General public	Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days. Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
78	7/8/26 11:28:30	William Goodwin	general public	I urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed trap check requirement to be strengthened to require checking every 48 hours
79	7/8/26 11:28:47	Bonnie Dighero-Kemp	Public	As a wildlife veterinary professional, I support strengthening the proposed trap check requirement from 56 hours to 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check interval remains the humane standard, reducing the maximum interval to 48 hours would represent a meaningful improvement and significantly reduce unnecessary animal suffering. Animals confined in traps can experience prolonged pain, dehydration, thermal stress, self-inflicted injuries, capture myopathy, and increased risk of predation. More frequent trap checks also allow for earlier release of non-target animals and improve overall accountability in wildlife management. I encourage the Commission to adopt the 48-hour requirement as an important step toward more humane, science-based wildlife management practices in Oregon.
80	7/8/26 11:31:29	Heather Freeman	General Public	While I don't believe traps should be allowed- I urge you to check traps at least every 48 hours. There is no justification for leaving these animals to suffer in traps for more than two days.

81	7/8/26 11:31:38	Kelley Argenta	Gneral Public	ODFW is proposing for the first time a trap check requirement for black bears and cougars requiring private landowners, agents and government agencies to check their traps at least every 56 hours. An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Please consider a 48 hour trap check instead of the 56 hour as currently proposed.
82	7/8/26 11:34:59	6815nw poplar dr	private	All traps should be illegal, at least if allowed faster times to check traps should be done.
83	7/8/26 11:36:07	Alyssa Coughlin	General public	This state has such close ties to nature, so not let us down by allowing cruel traps.
84	7/8/26 11:41:04	Megan Parnow	General Pubic	Please pass a bill to require all bear and courage traps to be checked every 56hrs.
85	7/8/26 11:43:26	Anne Houff	Public	Please ensure traps are checked in 48 hours. Traps in and of themselves are cruel and having an animal suffer is something we don't need to do
86	7/8/26 11:52:37	Julia Jasinski	general public	Please require land owners, government agencies and their workersss HAVE to check their traps every 24 hours. It is ridiculous that these animals have to needlessly suffer when they are already going to die because we have taken over their territory. One day we will look back and feel shame for the suffering we've caused the earths other inhabitants.
87	7/8/26 11:53:39	Susanna Askins	general public	Trapping should be abolished. Traps should be checked twice a day
88	7/8/26 11:57:06	cynthia salazar	general public	Please shorten the check times for traps. The current proposal is too long.
89	7/8/26 11:57:24	Dale Lockridge	General Public	That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
90	7/8/26 12:05:34	Caarla Orr	general public	Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
91	7/8/26 12:17:05	Sally Maish	OR	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
92	7/8/26 12:29:18	Gisela Ryter	Private citizen	I urge you to vote for the 48 hour trap check on private land for bears and cougars

93	7/8/26 12:30:40	Kim Norris	general public	To the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would respectfully like to urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to use its authority to adopt a 48 hour trap check requirement as the minimum standard for any animal in a trap. To paraphrase my husband, a former trapper, anyone who can't check their traps every day shouldn't be in the trapping business. This view can be found reiterated in the opening pages of the Trapping Education Manual published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. It states: "The decision to become a trapper represents a serious commitment of time and dedication to responsible behavior. Trapping is a highly regulated activity because the public is concerned about wildlife conservation and the welfare of wild animals.... When trapping season starts, trappers must check their traps every day until they are removed." I recently learned that Oregon's trapping policies currently allow animals to remain in traps anywhere from 48 hours to 30 days (!), depending upon how the animal is categorized. Moreover, I understand there are no trap check times AT ALL for black bears trapped by Wildlife Services. Needless to say, I was shocked. Now is the perfect opportunity for Oregon's trap check times to be updated to 24 hours for all wildlife, in all traps, on both public and private lands. This would be consistent with guidelines from the Trapping Education Manual published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. It would also be consistent with regulations that 37 other states – including Colorado and Washington -- already have in place. According to all these sources, there is no acceptable reason to leave any animal in a trap for days on end. A 48 hour trap check time should be the minimum standard for any wildlife caught in a trap. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the commission.
94	7/8/26 12:36:26	Donna Mulvey	Public Land Owner	How about no trapping at all?!
95	7/8/26 12:45:12	Donna	Concerned citizen	Please do the right thing.
96	7/8/26 12:46:17	Cindy Corbus	General public	Our native wildlife must be protected.
97	7/8/26 12:51:48	Clifford Spencer, MA, MS	general public	I write in SUPPORT of requiring traps to be checked every 24 hours.
98	7/8/26 12:52:18	Heather Davis	general public	Please do the humane thing for these animals and lower the suffering time spent in traps (preferably checking every 24 hours). Put yourself in their place and do the right thing!
99	7/8/26 12:57:57	Nancy Fleming	general public	I strongly urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Compassion should matter.

100	7/8/26 12:59:15	Juanita Rinas	general public	I would personally like to see trapping eradicated unless an animal is actively imposing a threat, it is a cruel and inhumane way to deal with nuisance or game animals. At this time, I am encouraging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
101	7/8/26 13:01:55	Linda Steinle	Public	We need to do everything we can to support the needless suffering of wildlife. This is their world too and we are increasingly invading their habitats. I support the regions to this bill suggested by the humane society.
102	7/8/26 13:08:07	Eileen Sherry	GP	Protect the bears
103	7/8/26 13:09:10	Linda Andrade	General public, animal lover	Please shorten the time bears and cougars are trapped and in pain. Enduring suffering with no water or food.
104	7/8/26 13:12:29	Charles Tribble	Retired Fish & Wildlife Officer	Check Traps each 24 hours.
105	7/8/26 13:18:45	H. M. Sustaita	Public citizen	Bears and cougars plus other animals that may fall prey to these horrible traps set on private land should be banned actually. If not please stop the torture of these animals and require traps be checked every 24 hours.
106	7/8/26 13:22:47	Lori Kuebler	General public	Why do we continue to torture, neglect and abuse animals unnecessarily? Please make it the standard to check traps no more than 48 hours after being set. Animals shouldn't have to endure prolonged suffering because the people setting these cruel traps are unable to check the trap in an appropriate time frame. If you can't check the trap, then don't set it. Humans must stop all wildlife is an inconvenience when we are the actual perpetrators.
107	7/8/26 13:33:55	shelley newton	concerned about cruelty	trap check more frequently. Animals suffer just as human species does. Don't allow humans to turn their backs and have other species die a long ,protracted death.
108	7/8/26 13:44:03	Sarah Welte	general public	Bear and cougar traps, if they are not going to be checked every 24 hours, should at least be checked every 48 hours at a maximum.
109	7/8/26 13:52:25	Theodore Chu	Oregon resident, general public, Oregon hunter	I had no idea there was no trap check regulation for bears and mountain lions and am surprised such a requirement had not been enacted many years ago. Trapping is the cruelest way to control animals so it is only reasonable that people using traps be required to reduce animal suffering as much as possible by checking their traps no more than every 24 hours. In fact since such trapping commonly only involves one or two traps at. one location as opposed to fur trapping which involves many traps in several locations the trap check rule for bears and mountain lions should be every 18 hours.

110	7/8/26 13:55:45	Jenine Moscové	general public	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you.
111	7/8/26 14:04:59	Lisa	General public	Check traps every 48 hours
112	7/8/26 14:09:26	Linda Grabe	general public	Animal suffering is rampant and they have no where to live now because we have taken over all their habitats. Stop making it worse!
113	7/8/26 14:10:27	Albert LePage	Individual, M.Ed. Science, B.S. Biology, Member, Society for Conservation Biology	The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposal to implement a first-time 56-hour trap-check requirement for black bears and cougars on private lands is an important acknowledgment of a severe regulatory gap. However, from a veterinary, ecological, and animal welfare perspective, a 56-hour interval does not align with established wildlife science or existing state standards. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission must strengthen this proposed rule to a maximum 48-hour trap-check interval to reduce preventable suffering, physiological trauma, and ecological degradation. The Scientific Case for Reducing Trap-Check Intervals Allowing a large mammal to remain restrained for up to 56 hours ignores the compounding physiological and psychological crises that occur during prolonged confinement. Acute Physiological Stress & Pathological Changes: Research shows that the duration of trap restraint is a primary driver of acute stress. Prolonged restraint activates the Sympatho-Adrenal-Medullary (SAM) axis, causing sustained surges of adrenaline and cortisol. In large carnivores and omnivores, this extended panic triggers severe tissue damage, muscle breakdown, elevated creatine kinase levels, and an elevated stress leukogram. Dehydration, Exposure, and Metabolic Shock: Caught in an autonomous mechanical trap without immediate human intervention, an animal experiences rapid dehydration. Extended periods of panting, exposure to extreme temperatures, and lack of water cause cellular hypoxia, vascular damage, and organ damage. This frequently progresses to irreversible metabolic shock or death before the trapper even returns. Self-Inflicted Trauma and Injury: Empirical evidence proves that physical trauma, including fractures, joint dislocations, vascular lacerations, and dental damage from biting at the trap, scales significantly with the time an animal spends confined. Shortening the interval directly limits the window of time an animal can inflict these severe injuries upon itself. Policy Consistency and Resource Realities Black bears and cougars are legally classified as game mammals in Oregon, yet they are trapped by private landowners and government agents exclusively for property damage, public safety, livestock conflicts, or timber operations. Hundreds of these apex predators are caught annually. Leaving them to languish for nearly two and a half days creates an arbitrary, inhumane double standard. A 48-hour trap-check requirement represents a reasonable compromise that brings large-mammal management into immediate alignment with Oregon's existing trap-check intervals for other wildlife species. While a 24-hour check remains the ideal scientific and humane standard for minimizing trauma, a 48-hour cap is a necessary, science-backed step forward. The Commission must reject the 56-hour loophole and mandate a 48-hour maximum check interval before the July 24 deadline to protect Oregon's wildlife from prolonged, unjustifiable suffering. Scientific References 1. Cattet, M., et al. (2008). The Grizzly Bear Health Project: Understanding the physiological effects of capture and handling on large carnivores. Journal of Wildlife Management, 72(7), 1511-1521. 2. Chossy, R., et al. (2017). Characterization and minimization of the stress response to trapping in free-ranging wolves (Canis lupus): insights from physiology and behavior. PubMed / Journal of Wildlife Research, 28845717. 3. Iossa, G., et al. (2007). Mammal trapping: A review of animal welfare standards of killing and restraining traps. Animal Welfare, 16(3), 335-352. 4. Proulx, G., & Barrett, M. W. (1993). Evaluation of mammal traps and the need for rigorous welfare and methodological reporting. Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 29(1), 101-107. [3, 20] 5. Powell, R. A., & Proulx, G. (2003). Trapping and Marking Terrestrial Mammals for Research: Integrating ethics, performance criteria, and techniques. ILAR Journal, 44(4), 259-276. 6. Soulsbury, C. D., et al. (2020). The welfare
114	7/8/26 14:10:38	Diana Villanueva	General public	It is clearly inhumane and cruel to leave a trapped animal to die painfully slow. Try putting yourself in that situation... you would want a bullet asap.
115	7/8/26 14:12:41	JoAnne Hamblin	general public	I see no reason not to be humane to ALL animals in our care on this planet. We are stewards for this planet and all the animals on it. Let's take better care of these animals.
116	7/8/26 14:14:53	Carolyn Saiia	general public	Quit the TRAPS!!!!!!

117	7/8/26 14:14:54	Albert LePage	Individual, M.Ed. Science, B.S. Biology, Member, Society for Conservation Biology	NOTE: This is an addendum to the comments I submitted, since apparently the scientific references section was not fully inputted. Therefore, here's the last section of my initial comments with the scientific references as follows: Policy Consistency and Resource Realities Black bears and cougars are legally classified as game mammals in Oregon, yet they are trapped by private landowners and government agents exclusively for property damage, public safety, livestock conflicts, or timber operations. Hundreds of these apex predators are caught annually. Leaving them to languish for nearly two and a half days creates an arbitrary, inhumane double standard. A 48-hour trap-check requirement represents a reasonable compromise that brings large-mammal management into immediate alignment with Oregon's existing trap-check intervals for other wildlife species. While a 24-hour check remains the ideal scientific and humane standard for minimizing trauma, a 48-hour cap is a necessary, science-backed step forward. The Commission must reject the 56-hour loophole and mandate a 48-hour maximum check interval before the July 24 deadline to protect Oregon's wildlife from prolonged, unjustifiable suffering. Scientific References 1. Cattet, M., et al. (2008). The Grizzly Bear Health Project: Understanding the physiological effects of capture and handling on large carnivores. Journal of Wildlife Management, 72(7), 1511-1521. 2. Chossy, R., et al. (2017). Characterization and minimization of the stress response to trapping in free-ranging wolves (Canis lupus): insights from physiology and behavior. PubMed / Journal of Wildlife Research, 28845717. 3. Iossa, G., et al. (2007). Mammal trapping: A review of animal welfare standards of killing and restraining traps. Animal Welfare, 16(3), 335-352. 4. Proulx, G., & Barrett, M. W. (1993). Evaluation of mammal traps and the need for rigorous welfare and methodological reporting. Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 29(1), 101-107. [3, 20] 5. Powell, R. A., & Proulx, G. (2003). Trapping and Marking Terrestrial Mammals for Research: Integrating ethics, performance criteria, and techniques. ILAR Journal, 44(4), 259-276. 6. Soulsbury, C. D., et al. (2020). The welfare implications of trapping wild mammals. Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 7, 513.
118	7/8/26 14:27:23	Hannah	General public	Wild life deserves respect
119	7/8/26 14:28:49	Nikki Dennis	General Public/Oregon Resident	I am strongly in favor of the Commission adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval for wildlife such as bears and cougars which I understand do not currently have the same protections. This change will not only reduce suffering, but will help to improve the likelihood that non-target animals survive that traumatizing and painful ordeal. Additionally, establishing a standard for trap-checking in this state will eliminate confusion and will be easier to enforce. I appreciate that the Commission is having this discussion. To me, it acknowledges that a positive change is needed here and that all Oregon wildlife are sentient beings that are deserving of compassion. I ask that you please adopt a 48-hour maximum trap check interval to implement this necessary compassionate, easily understandable, and standardized policy for all wildlife into action. Thank you.
120	7/8/26 14:41:38	Charlie Simmons	General public	Why are there any bear and cougar traps?

121	7/8/26 14:47:40	Debra Merskin	General Public	Chair Wall and Commissioners, My name is Debra Merskin, and I live in Powell Butte, in Central Oregon. I am writing to strongly urge the Commission to strengthen the proposed trap check requirement for black bears and cougars. I appreciate that ODFW has taken the important step of proposing the first-ever mandatory trap-check interval for these species. This is an important and long overdue step toward improving the welfare of Oregon's wildlife. However, the proposed "every other calendar day" standard—which can allow traps to go unchecked for up to 56 hours—is not sufficient. It does not meaningfully reduce suffering; it does not align with Oregon's existing standards for other mammals, and it is not supported by the scientific literature on trapping-related stress, injury, and mortality. The science is clear: Prolonged time in traps causes extreme suffering and increases mortality. Peer-reviewed studies consistently show that trapped animals experience escalating psychological stress, dehydration, injury, exposure, and shock the longer they remain trapped (Iossa et al, 2007). The studies below support this statement and apply directly to cougars and bears who are highly stress sensitive, prone to self-injury, and at risk of fatal complications from hyperthermia, dehydration, and capture myopathy. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the humane standard. While states vary in their regulations, daily trap checks are widely recognized in the scientific literature and by national veterinary and wildlife management organizations as the humane standard. National veterinary guidance also supports this. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) states that frequent trap checks are essential, and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Management Practices also emphasizes that welfare declines as trap time increases. Thus, at an absolute minimum, Oregon must adopt a 48-hour maximum trap check interval which would: •Align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing 48-hour trap-check standard for other trapped mammals. •Reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non target wildlife. •Create a consistent statewide standard that is easier for trappers to follow and for ODFW to enforce. •Represent meaningful progress while still being practical for those responsible for checking traps. By doing this, the Commission has a rare opportunity to correct a long-standing welfare gap. More than 200 bears and nearly 60 cougars are trapped annually under damage and public safety provisions. Thank you for taking this important first step. I respectfully ask the Commission to strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap-check interval for black bears and cougars. Sincerely, Debra Merskin, PhD
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122	7/8/26 14:48:09	Kari Brennan	general public	Dear Kari, I'm writing to share my support for a stronger trap-check requirement for black bears and cougars in Oregon. I understand ODFW is proposing, for the first time, a rule requiring private landowners, agents, and government agencies to check traps at least every 56 hours. This is a meaningful step forward, since there is currently no trap-check requirement at all for bears and cougars. However, I don't believe it goes far enough. An animal caught in a trap can endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure, and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. I'm urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen this rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours instead of 56. While a 24-hour requirement would be the more humane standard, a 48-hour rule would be a real improvement and would bring bears and cougars in line with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot legally be trapped for recreation or sport. Trapping is permitted on private land only for property damage, livestock conflicts, public safety, or nuisance issues — and many bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Given that hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon each year, there is no justification for allowing these animals to suffer in traps for more than two days. Thank you for considering my comments, and for your work on this issue. Sincerely, Kari Brennan
123	7/8/26 14:50:49	S Hall	Citizen	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours or sooner. Animals must not suffer in traps.
124	7/8/26 14:51:22	Diane Venberg	general public	Steel jaw traps should not be allowed on any lands - public or private. These traps are indiscriminate and cause extreme suffering. Any animal or human could be a victim. I realize the issue at hand is how frequently the traps should be checked - how will this be enforced and how we can trust any land owner who uses such vile contraptions to care enough to follow the guidelines? I invite any trapper to put their own limb in such a device and see how it feels. If animal cruelty is a felony in most states and trapping for sport is illegal, why does OR allow land owners to deal with "nuisance" wildlife in this manner? I'm ashamed to live in a state that condones trapping wildlife.
125	7/8/26 15:10:53	Kim Wick	General public	I don't think the traps should be allowed at all, but if they have to exist then the less time between checks the better.
126	7/8/26 15:12:44	Patricia Pomeroy	Concerned citizen	Just stop already
127	7/8/26 15:28:10	Randi Brinkley	general public	! Ask the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours.
128	7/8/26 15:32:37	Cristy Murray	general public	All traps set for bears and cougars should be checked every 24 hours.

129	7/8/26 15:47:05	George B. Hutchinson	Oregon voting citizen	I am requesting that the Commission, at a minimum, to adopt a 48-hour maximum trap check interval. Oregon already requires a 48-hour trap check time for other trapped mammals, and bears and cougars should receive the same protection. Adopting a 48-hour standard would represent a meaningful improvement over the proposed 56-hour interval. It would reduce the suffering of bears, cougars, and other wildlife caught in traps, improve the likelihood that non-target animals survive, establish one consistent statewide trap check standard that is easier to understand and enforce, and align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals..
130	7/8/26 15:52:06	Diane Zhitlovsky	Public	Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days. Yes to requirement of trap checks as a first step to alleviate suffering of these animals
131	7/8/26 16:06:16	Steven Prince	general publice	traps should be checked AT LEAST every 24 hours or they shouldn't be put out at all
132	7/8/26 16:14:02	V Eells	Average Jane who gives a fuck	THERE IS NO 'HUMANE' IN THE PRACTICE OF TRAPPING! IT MUST END. NOW!
133	7/8/26 16:20:27	Blake Feuge	Nonprofit organization	Please use humane methods of trapping
134	7/8/26 16:22:04	Suzanne	General Public	56 hours is too long between checks, 48 would be more optimal. An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
135	7/8/26 16:25:26	Jeffrey L Clark	General Public	I vote for the welfare of innocent animals - always. The shorter the checking interval, the better. If only animals had a vote!
136	7/8/26 16:38:12	Rachel Cairns	General Public	I think it is cruel that a trapper would leave an animal to suffer. If one must kill an animal, have the decency to dispatch it quickly.
137	7/8/26 17:20:32	C GROVES	GENERAL PUBLIC	I WANT THE TRAP CHECK TIME, TO BE UPPED TO AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF EVERY 48 HOURS. HOWEVER, THE MOST HUMANE TIME IS EVERY 24 HOURS! NO ANIMAL SHOULD EVER LANGUISH IN FEAR, FRUSTRATION AND PAIN, WITHOUT FOOD, WATER AND BEING CHECKED ON, IN A TIMELY MANNER!
138	7/8/26 17:21:26	Susan Gallagher	General public	48 hours isn't too much to ask. In fact animals should not be left in traps for longer than 24 hours. 48 hours is a long time for animals to suffer. Traps are inhumane enough without dragging out the amount of time they are left in them.
139	7/8/26 17:22:43	Dave Ruud	general public	Cougars and bears should not be trapped at all, but since they will be, checking the traps every 24 hours should be a minimum requirement to limit unnecessary suffering.

140	7/8/26 17:51:27	James Rankin	General Public	Please don't permit the trapping & killing of wildlife like bear, cougar, foxes, martens, etc. If they need to be removed from a certain area, please use humane methods like live traps.
141	7/8/26 17:54:07	Robert Thornhill	General Public	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
142	7/8/26 18:12:23	Marnie Holmes	general public	why are you trapping bear and cougar at all!?!?!? Please at least have some humanity and check traps every 48 hrs
143	7/8/26 18:16:13	Geena Levoe	Tax paying US citizen	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 24-48 hours. This would help animals to not suffer... there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days. Thank you!
144	7/8/26 18:22:16	Karen Sjogren	General public	Thank you so much for proposing the first ever trap check requirement for "problem" bears and cougars. Please strengthen the proposed 56 hour (every other calendar day) minimum to at most every 48 hours, consistent with trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. A 24 hour maximum trap check interval would be more humane because it reduces animal suffering and increases the chances of survival for non target species. It is the standard adopted by the majority of other states. (para) On average, more than 200 black bears and 60 cougars are trapped each year in Oregon with no trap check requirements. Even if these animals are ultimately killed, they do not deserve to suffer for any sustained length of time in cruel traps. (para) In 2000 I circulated a ballot initiative to ban leg hold traps in Oregon, sponsored by the Humane Society. The measure was an easy sell, on the basis of cruelty, days of suffering, and the possibility of trapping non target animals. Although the measure did not pass, it did get on the ballot and shows a concern by Oregonian for a
145	7/8/26 18:28:02	Carolyn Boackman	Retired	Stop using animal traps
146	7/8/26 18:40:44	Nina French	N/A	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
147	7/8/26 18:59:57	Niall	general public	I'm urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours.
148	7/8/26 19:16:17	Mary Callison	general public	concerned citizen for animal rights
149	7/8/26 19:24:05	Susanna Askins	general public	Traps should be checked at least every 24 hours; anyone caught not doing so should be subject to a heavy fine and jail time.. However, I want to state very clearly that trapping should be outlawed.
150	7/8/26 19:35:30	Alexis Lewis	General public	Please consider this humane step to reduce animal suffering by requiring trap checks every 48 hrs - thank you.

151	7/8/26 19:42:16	sally mackler	general public	While it is laudable that the Department has proposed a trap check time specifically for bears and cougars causing damage or presenting a public safety threat, the every - other day trap check time proposed is inhumane. And the use of traps as a method to remedy damage or aggression fails to address these problems. As game animals, these species are not permitted to be trapped for sport. That consideration should extend to at least keep the trap check time for bear and cougar the same as it is for animals caught in traps for sport. Even that trap check time of 48 hours is inhumane and causes physical and psychological pain and suffering. At the minimum, a 24 hour time check limit should be adopted. In truth, traps should not be intentionally permitted for these 2 species for damage or safety threat because traps are inherently indiscriminate and do not specifically target or 'remove' the specific animal causing damage or safety threats. Therefore, the removal of any bear or cougar with indiscriminate traps only takes out a body and does nothing to address the problem.
152	7/8/26 20:09:12	Kaveh Pouladin	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why I'm urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
153	7/8/26 20:34:17	Philip Mandel	General public	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. Please ADOPT this requirement. Thank you for your consideration.
154	7/8/26 20:42:32	Jennie Mull-Scotty	General public	Traps are cruel, disgusting and inhumane. Please strengthen laws to protect wildlife and stand up for animals. Thank you.
155	7/8/26 20:46:05	Debra Smith	general public	I urge you to please mandate that bear and cougar traps be checked at least every 48 hours as allowing longer times is very inhumane. Thank you for your consideration.
156	7/8/26 20:52:27	Gina	General public	Treat them as human beings, they are brilliant!
157	7/8/26 20:52:38	Jan Lawton	General public	Really? Sentient animals don't feel pain? The use of traps is total insanity and barbaric.
158	7/8/26 20:59:19	Tisa Lynch	General public	Please make and keep laws that protect animals. Cruelty should never be happening in this country. But it does. We have become a country of meanest, lying, cruelty. Very disappointing what is happening.
159	7/8/26 21:11:00	Carla Hervert	General public	People who set traps need to be checking them! Please pass this bill!
160	7/8/26 21:24:29	Heather Johnston	public	there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.

162	7/8/26 22:00:30	Judith Arayaes	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
163	7/8/26 22:04:26	Jennifer McDaid	General Public	Please stop the needless suffering of these traps.
164	7/8/26 22:22:55	Kelly Brignell	Public	No trapping would be preferable! At a MINIMUM - 48 hour check!
165	7/8/26 22:41:18	Laurel Hines	General public	Please extend common sense compassion and reasonable humanity to bears and cougars by requiring trap checks a minimum of every 48 hours (ideally every 24 hours). It is about time that bears and cougars trapped due to being deemed "problem animals" get the same consideration as other animals allowed to be trapped.
166	7/8/26 22:59:18	Diana Williamson	Oregonian	Trap checks should be as short as possible for humane treatment of wildlife. I have a lot of negative feelings about ODFW, but this would be a step in the right direction.
167	7/8/26 23:31:21	Angela Kelly	general public	I would prefer a 24-hour trap check requirement, being the more humane standard, but a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
168	7/8/26 23:59:00	Ann	concerned citizen	Trapping itself is hurtful to animals, but leaving them to suffer is cruel and evil.
169	7/9/26 0:11:56	Setsuko Maruki-Fox	general public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
170	7/9/26 0:26:08	Tami Davies	None	PLEASE strengthen the proposed trapping rule by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. It's bad enough that painful traps are allowed. At least shorten the amount of time they lay in pain. What if it was your pet?
171	7/9/26 1:31:30	Lucy Kelly	General public	This suggestion of checking traps every 56 hours is an improvement, but it is still not enough. For the sake of humanity, traps for bears and cougars should be checked every 48 hours.

172	7/9/26 1:48:38	Jen Hazen	General public	The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing for the first time a trap check requirement for black bears and cougars requiring private landowners, agents and government agencies to check their traps at least every 56 hours. While this would be a meaningful step forward, as there is currently no trap-check requirement at all for bears and cougars, it doesn't go far enough. An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
173	7/9/26 3:36:33	Isabelle Rhodes-Flanary	General public	Animals can think, and feel fear and pain, and there's no justification for letting them suffer in traps for an extended period of time. There are better solutions for conflicts with wildlife than torturing them.
174	7/9/26 4:11:28	maria	general public	Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
175	7/9/26 5:06:30	Roy Wessbecher	general public	Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days. I prefer a trapping ban, but this is the least we can do. Have you heard of "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness"? It is self-evident for all sentient beings. Trapping is the opposite...
176	7/9/26 7:07:41	Theresa Beemer	general public	48 hours is not only more than reasonable, I personally don't think it goes far enough but I understand that once a day is not realistic. Bears and cougars are animals with the same stress, fear, and pain responses as any other animal, including our own companion animals. I urge you to change the requirement for checking traps to once every 48 hours.
177	7/9/26 7:13:26	David Gorton	general public	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours.
178	7/9/26 7:24:31	Jan Jaskoski	general public	The ODFW proposal requiring traps to be checked every other calendar day is reasonable and should be enforced (every day would be even better). This proposal is a humane step in the right direction.
179	7/9/26 7:29:22	Christina Knowles	General public	Please don't let congrats and bears suffer by leaving the traps unchecked so long. Checking traps faster reduces suffering.

180	7/9/26 7:50:06	Ann Crawford	Private citizen	I am strongly encouraging the process of 48 hour trap checks for black bears and cougars, and essentially any animal caught in a trap. Traps are extremely inhumane in nature. They can cause great harm and suffering without killing an animal. It is a form of extreme torture, but as it is being used on a wild animal and not a human, it is deemed appropriate. The kindest thing would be to check traps every 24 hours, to reduce the amount of suffering the animal must endure. As humans, we are stewards of this planet and its creatures. Please consider this step an important part of our responsibility to our fellow living beings on the earth.
181	7/9/26 8:19:47	Bonnie Campbell	General public	I support reducing the current trap check hours to 48
182	7/9/26 8:33:25	Judy Williams	Taxpayer	Any traps used to kill wildlife is inhumane. Consider — would you like your mother and father or child to be trapped for any amount of time by a different species? It's cruel to comprehend it for humans and animals alike.
183	7/9/26 8:43:33	Andrea Boydston	general public	Better yet -- NO TRAPS AT ALL !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
184	7/9/26 9:13:29	Alice Elshoff	Interwsted public	Please make it mandatory to check cougar and bear traps at least every 48 hours, in line with other wildlife trapping.ing requirements
185	7/9/26 9:39:16	gm whiting	citizen	These are God's creatures also. Have mercy on His other creatures. That is His will.
186	7/9/26 10:08:12	Lorette Montgomery	general public	Thank you for proposing trap-check requirements for cougars and bears. Please strengthen the requirement to be consistent with 48-hour checks that currently minimize the suffering of other trapped animals.
187	7/9/26 10:10:06	Markus Bihler	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)	Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
188	7/9/26 11:18:34	rebecca bacon	general public, Oregon resident	While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
189	7/9/26 11:53:01	Jennifer Abernathy	general public--concerned for animal welfare	Please be more humane to these animals with more frequent checks; they don't deserve to suffer.

190	7/9/26 12:08:06	Alicia Cohen	general public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why I am urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 24 hours. If that is not possible, then the bare minimum would be a 48-hour trap check requirement which would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
191	7/9/26 12:16:27	Marilyn Hansen	general public	Please show compassion for wildlife in Oregon . As living beings, they feel pain and fear just as we humans do
192	7/9/26 15:44:48	Lora Meisner	Coalition Advocating for Animals	I think it's very important for ODFW to improve the rule for trap checking for bears and cougars. However, to keep rules more standardized and humane. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours--WAY TOO LONG). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval.
193	7/9/26 16:41:52	Donna Harris	Individual	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval.
194	7/9/26 16:41:53	Donna Harris	Individual	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval.

195	7/9/26 17:10:54	Susan Strauss	general public-livestock/ ranch owner	We live in a rural area and manage a small ranch with livestock. We find that things generally go better when one WORKS WITH NATURE. Our neighbors don't always see this the same way and we have witnessed their troubles because of it. So, we deeply appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. Certainly, for any living thing a 24-hour maximum trap check interval is more humane and not too demanding on the landowner. Please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals and give a bit more time to landowners on larger acreages. Still, we would be in favor of a more frequent trap check time which reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Again, we deeply appreciate ODFW for taking this important first step.
196	7/9/26 18:39:08	Elie Gaines	general public	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval. The bottom line for me, is that topping, when deemed necessary, should be done as humanely as is possible. The stress for a trapped animal is significant. To reduce the stress and/or injury caused by trapping should be the highest priority. Thank you for your consideration of the 48-hour maximum trap check rule.
197	7/9/26 19:17:10	Allison Everitt	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why I am urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
198	7/9/26 20:55:53	Sandi Manion	General public	PLEASE do not leave bear, cougar traps unchecked for more than 24 hours. This is inhumane and causes needless suffering to the animals.
199	7/9/26 22:27:20	Tori Herbst	General public	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.

200	7/9/26 22:53:03	Jacqueline Glyde	General public	Leave our wildlife alone!!
201	7/10/26 10:10:20	Alex Samarin	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
202	7/10/26 10:52:14	ANNE ACKLEY	GENERAL PUBLIC	Animals who get trapped need to be checked every 48 hours.
203	7/10/26 11:44:49	Karly Ritter	General public	I am very much in favor of implementing a more frequent trap check requirement for black bears and cougars. A 48-hour check would align with other trap checks and be the simplest to implement and communicate. We should try to trap as humanely as possible and minimize suffering, especially of accidental trappings.
204	7/10/26 11:53:22	Penina S. Finger	general public	I support AT LEAST a trap check requirement of 48 hours for black bears and cougars.
205	7/10/26 12:46:53	Sheila Harris	General public	Please check bear and cougar traps every 48 hours. Really would like these traps abolished! In Proverbs 12:10 God tells us to be kind to animals!
206	7/10/26 12:48:47	Denise Smith	Private citizen	Do frequent trap checks on animals ~ it's cruel period. But it's more cruel to have those animals be in traps for extended hours and days suffering.
207	7/10/26 17:19:08	Dresden Skees-Gregory	general public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why I'm urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.
208	7/10/26 20:45:14	Robin	Oregon citizen and voter	Not requiring trappers to check their traps within 48 hours is extremely cruel. As a former bowhunter, I would never allow an animal to suffer.
209	7/11/26 6:55:49	Hilary McGraw	General Public	Please strengthen the proposed rule to require traps to be checked every 48 hours, rather than 56. There is no need for animals to be made to suffer needlessly for hours and days, and 48 should still be manageable for trappers.
210	7/11/26 8:31:03	Sara Powell	General public	An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why I am urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species.

211	7/11/26 11:14:59	Dawn Smallman	general public	I'm writing in support of the ODFW's trap check requirements proposal, to be revised include bears and cougars to the current list of mammals required to receive a maximum of a 48 hours period for a trap check. Bears and cougars deserve their suffering in traps to be minimized as much as other mammals. Thank you.
212	7/11/26 17:20:26	Linda Leyva	General public	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap chcheck requirement for bears and cougars. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interviews
213	7/11/26 17:22:28	Aisling Boothby	Citizen	We need to at least mandate that traps should be checked every 48 hours
214	7/11/26 17:30:22	Janelle Davidson	general public	The killing of wildlife is barbaric, even when it is "accidental." We must do all we can to make sure bears and others are not left to suffer when caught in traps. They must be checked every 24 to 48 hours at the most.
215	7/11/26 20:41:52	Sheila Dooley	Landowner in big game winter range	As someone who lives in the big game winter range, I strongly believe that bears and cougars need to be treated humanely. Oregonians have made it illegal to trap bears and cougars as a method of take during hunting season. It makes no sense to allow any trapping for other reasons without short trap check intervals. Please adopt at the least a 48 hour-maximum trap check interval for bears and cougars and preferably a 24-hour maximum. A 48-hour maximum trap check interval for bears and cougars would enable them to receive the same protection as other trapped mammals. However, adopting 24-hour maximum trap check interval would be more humane, help reduce animal suffering, and be consistent with the majority of other states. Currently having no trap check standard is extremely cruel to animals. The every other day (up to 56 hours) proposal is too long. Remaining in a trap for days is unacceptable. Thank you for your consideration of my comments Sheila Dooley Mosier, Oregon
216	7/12/26 7:32:38	Patricia daffron	general public	48 hours you should check traps
217	7/12/26 16:37:33	Traci Ball	OR	Every individual that has any part in this (every single piece) can either move to do further harm or actually use this life to make it better for other beings. Do the good thing. On anyone's death bed they will not be wishing they'd done less for animals and the earth. Just do the right thing. Just do it.
218	7/13/26 7:41:47	Ellen Pfander	public	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours. Nobody deserves to suffer - consider lowering to 24 hours or not allow traps - period. The majority of our human population is at a point where preservation is more important than killing especially inhumane ways -

219	7/13/26 19:53:10	Rebecca Adams	Concerned Member	Just like we humans do, other animals, suffer incredibly horrific pain when injured. Therefore, I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. Trapping causes incredible inhumane pain and stress on any animal. Imagine being left with something stabbing into your body, or strangling you, for days on end with no ability to move or get help, or worse what if you had to endure watching this happen to your child. A check every other calendar day is simply not acceptable. I respectfully request the state ban traps altogether - afterall, a society can only be judged by how it treats its fellow animals. Bears and Cougars feel no less pain than any other animals that have shorter trap checks. Further other unintended animals would not suffer as much as a result of not-target trapped situations should the proposed trap check rule for bears and cougars be adopted. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval. Thank you.
220	7/14/26 9:23:12	Kat Balogh	general public	I strongly support a trap check requirement, however, a 24-hour maximum trap check interval is essential. The majority of US states adopt this more humane approach (if you consider a trap humane). Bears and cougars should have the same interval as other mammals. Reducing the trap check requirement would reduce suffering, and make the interval more consistent and easier to understand and enforce. Thank you in advance for your consideration.
221	7/14/26 15:48:46	Kit Collins	General public	Please require a 24 hour trap check for bears and cougars. Its the humane thing to do
222	7/14/26 20:37:52	Kathleen Blevins	general public	It is unconscionable to leave animals in pain for days at a time. Checking traps every 48 hours should be the absolute maximum.
223	7/14/26 21:37:04	Georgia Wier	member of the public	To ODFW Commissioners: It is really important that you establish trap check requirements for bears and cougars. A humane standard would be a 24-hour maximum trap check interval. That will reduce animal suffering and is what several other states have done. At the very least, please adopt a 48-hour maximum trap check interval as is required for other mammals in Oregon. We value our cougars and bears; it's the least they deserve. Thank you, Georgia Wier
224	7/14/26 21:39:57	Patience Bingham	individual member	Please establish a 24-hour maximum trap check interval for cougars and bears in Oregon. This rule will bring Oregon up to the humane standards followed by several other states. Sincerely yours, Patience Bingham
225	7/15/26 12:28:10	Heather Davis	self	I think traps of all kinds should be illegal but they should be checked every 24 hours at min
226	7/15/26 13:54:07	Penney	Empathetic human	Do away with traps/snares
227	7/15/26 14:32:54	Michelle Casey	A concerned Oregonian	Please strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. I'm happy that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing a time for trap checks, but 56 hours is long enough for animals to die slow deaths while being stuck. Animals such as bears and cougars deserve better than that. Please consider reducing the 56 hour to at least 48 hours, and really 24 hours would be ideal. Thank you!

228	7/15/26 15:25:56	Linda Rentfrow	General public and	Can we consider banning traps completely? We're at a time where we must educate people about our wildlife and how important they are to the stability of a healthy environment.
229	7/15/26 17:34:08	Karen Kielas	General Public	I support adoption of a 48-hour (or less) trap check rule for wildlife trapping in Oregon
230	7/15/26 19:08:48	Lynn Delorme	Tribal member	Bears and cougars need our protection and they matter!
232	7/16/26 13:04:24	Jane Bicquette	general public	Please strengthen trap check times for bears and cougars. I am against trapping. It is cruel, inhumane and unnecessary. If ODFW allows trapping, then the least that can be done is to check those traps frequently. What if unintended wildlife are trapped? What if the animal is suffering (they will be!)? Checking every few hours would be better than every 24 hours. So I ask you to consider the suffering of innocent beings. Consider the violence that trapping is and how this violence encourages more violence. Oregon can do better. At least require and enforce more frequent check times. It's the very least you can do.
233	7/16/26 14:59:36	Shabnam Bahma	General public	I urge you to change the time required to check on animal traps down to 48 hours. Trapped animals can suffer from pain, hunger, and dehydration.
234	7/16/26 16:13:39	Sarah Richardson	General	Please support the 24 hour trap check. We could do better than this and 24 hours is already inhumane.
235	7/16/26 16:56:16	Ashly Dale	Portland resident	Allowing animals to remain trapped for 56 hours before being checked on is incredibly cruel. 24 hours between checks in the humane standard that most states have already adopted. Please consider falling in other states footsteps and adopt the same policy. At a minimum, Oregon should adapt the policy to give bears & cougars the same protections as other trapped mammals and change the rule to 48 hour requirement. Thank you.
236	7/16/26 19:58:05	Brooke Bachelor	Physician, general	Please support 24 hours (or less!) as the humane standard. At a minimum, adopt 48 hours instead of 56 hours. 2. Give bears and cougars protections at least as strong as Oregon's existing 48-hour standard for other trapped mammals.
237	7/17/26 8:17:53	Ruth Gundle	general public	Rules for how often traps should be checked for bears and cougars must be changed to required checks every 24 hours.
238	7/17/26 8:34:28	Ellie Shelburne	General public	As a veterinarian I have directly seen the pain and suffering due to trapping animals, including dogs who have inadvertently stepped on traps. I strongly encourage a rule requiring at least 48 hours, though ideally 24 hours, for checking traps. Thank you.
239	7/17/26 9:15:23	Ann	General public	Please check the bear and cougar traps a min of 24 hours.
240	7/17/26 9:36:36	Laura Comiskey	None	None
241	7/17/26 10:26:24	Danielle Palacio	public - private cit	Please add a time for checking - Ideally 24 hours!! -- You do not have my permission to sell my information!
242	7/17/2026 12:17	JK Jones	general public	please Support 24 hours as the humane standard. ~ At a minimum, adopt 48 hours instead of 56 hours. ~ Give bears and cougars protections at least as strong as Oregon's existing 48-hour standard for other trapped mammals.
243	7/17/2026 12:54	Nancy Allen	general public	Every living thing deserves compassion!

244	7/17/2026 13:52	Delores Porch	General Public	I am not in favor of the rule to check bear and cougar traps at least once every two calendar days and not exceed 56 hours. Trappers for furbearers and predatory animals must check their traps at least every 48 hours. So, is the Commission only concerned about humane treatment of wildlife for some? Just because a bear or cougar is trapped for property damage doesn't make them any less worthy of humane consideration.
245	7/17/2026 14:15	Louise Lopes	General public	These traps must be checked at least every 24 hours but hopefully much sooner. No leghold trap should ever be used. All traps stress wild animals. They all should be outlawed as they are CRUEL and USELESS. Leave the predators alone! I live with a wild mountain lion and bear on my land and have for 35 years - NO ISSUES.
246	7/17/2026 18:33	Monica	General public	Please change check times to 24 hours for bears and cougars when trapped
247	7/18/2026 17:28	michele dickson	Public	NO, do NOT increase the amount of time allowed between trap checks. ONE day is already too long for animals to suffer.
248	7/19/2026 12:32	Bob Del Gizzi	General public	This is to petition for minimum bear and cougar trap check intervals of 24 hours, or at a maximum 48 hours, to maintain a humane minimum threshold.
249	7/19/2026 13:46	Connie Johnson	General public	I support the 24 hr check time for all trapped animals.
250	7/19/2026 15:51	Juliette Dunn	General public	I support a stronger enforcement on trap check times. Leghold traps cause severe distress and pain to animals and is inhumane. Animals are left dehydrated and hungry in painful situations. It is unacceptable to harm our wildlife in this manner.
251	7/20/2026 7:07	vicki birchell	general public	Anyone trapping animals should be made to check traps every day. Its inhumane to leave animals in traps suffering.
252	7/20/2026 11:52	Ericka Rodriguez	general public	I'm writing to urge you to strengthen the proposed trap check requirement for black bears and cougars trapped for property damage, livestock conflicts, or public safety. Currently, there is no trap check requirement at all for bears and cougars trapped under these circumstances, meaning an animal can be left in a trap for days. I'm glad ODFW is finally addressing this after more than 20 years, but the proposed 56-hour interval doesn't go far enough. I'm asking the Commission to adopt, at minimum, a 48-hour maximum trap check interval — consistent with what Oregon already requires for other trapped mammals. There's no clear reason bears and cougars should be held to a lower standard than other wildlife. A 48-hour rule would: Reduce unnecessary suffering for trapped animals Improve survival odds for non-target animals caught by mistake Create one consistent, easier-to-enforce statewide standard Bring bears and cougars in line with existing protections for other species I recognize a 24-hour interval is the more humane benchmark and matches what most other states require, and I'd support that standard if the Commission is willing to go further. But 48 hours is a reasonable, achievable improvement that I hope you'll adopt. Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of Oregon's wildlife.

253	7/20/2026 12:41	Molly Honea	Think Wild Central Oregon employee	Thank you for considering trap check requirements for bears and cougars! Please consider a 24-hour maximum interval trap check requirement - this will limit unnecessary suffering and increase accountability with folks using traps. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering and is consistent with the approach adopted by a majority of other states. Thanks for your consideration. -Molly Honea and the Think Wild team
254	7/20/2026 13:11	Summer Holland	General public	we are asking the Commission, at a minimum, to adopt a 48-hour maximum trap check interval. Oregon already requires a 48-hour trap check time for other trapped mammals, and we simply believe bears and cougars should receive the same protection. Adopting a 48-hour standard would move the needle forward and represent a meaningful improvement over the proposed 56-hour interval. It would reduce the suffering of bears, cougars, and other wildlife caught in traps, improve the likelihood that non-target animals survive, establish one consistent statewide trap check standard that is easier to understand and enforce, and align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals.
255	7/20/2026 16:05	Wally Sykes	General Public	It's no secret to the Commission that animals, both wild and domestic, suffer and die in traps, and especially so in predator control trapping, which has no maximum trap check time interval for bears and cougars. Non-target animals, including wildlife protected by state and federal regulations, share the same fate as targeted species. I applaud the proposed 56-hour check time for bears and cougars, but 48 hours would be in line with existing check times and every moment in a trap is horror for the victims: 8 additional hours seems unwarranted. Twenty-four hours would be even better... I thank the Commission for proposing this measure – a gesture of mercy long overdue.
256	7/20/2026 16:13	Miranda Eisen	General public	I appreciate the Commission's effort to establish trap-check requirements for bears and cougars. Please support 24 hours as the humane standard for checking traps, and at a minimum adopt a 48-hour limit instead of the proposed 56 hours. Bears and cougars should receive protections at least as strong as Oregon's existing 48-hour trap-check requirements for other trapped mammals. Thank you for your time and consideration!
257	7/21/2026 9:39	brian schachtsick	general public	stop the cruelty
258	7/21/2026 12:31	Ginger Neil	general public	More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval.

259	7/21/2026 13:24	Cierra Buer	Public	I appreciate ODFW proposing the first-ever trap check requirement for bears and cougars. A 24-hour maximum trap check interval is the more humane standard because it helps reduce animal suffering. At a minimum, please strengthen the proposal by requiring traps to be checked at least every 48 hours, rather than every other calendar day (up to 56 hours). A 48-hour requirement would align bears and cougars with Oregon's existing trap check requirements for other trapped mammals. More frequent trap checks reduce unnecessary suffering and improve outcomes for non-target wildlife. Thank you for taking this important first step. Please strengthen the final rule by adopting a 48-hour maximum trap check interval.
260	7/21/2026 15:02	Samuel Carl	general public	The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing for the first time a trap check requirement for black bears and cougars requiring private landowners, agents and government agencies to check their traps at least every 56 hours. While this would be a meaningful step forward, as there is currently no trap-check requirement at all for bears and cougars, it doesn't go far enough. An animal caught in a trap can still endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return. That's why we're urging the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule by requiring traps to be checked every 48 hours. While a 24-hour trap check requirement remains the more humane standard, a 48-hour trap check requirement would represent an important step forward and would align with Oregon's existing trap-check requirements for other wildlife species. Black bears and cougars are classified as game mammals, meaning they cannot be trapped for recreation or sport. Instead, trapping is permitted on private lands for property damage, conflicts with livestock, public safety concerns or nuisance conflicts. Many black bears are killed in connection with timber operations. Hundreds of black bears and cougars are trapped in Oregon every year, and there is no justification for leaving these animals to languish in traps for more than two days.
261	7/21/2026 15:17	Sandy Miller	Public	Please require Oregon trappers to check their traps at least once every 24, to shorten the suffering of the animals caught in them.
262	7/21/2026 15:42	Dianne Ensign	General public	Strengthen the proposed rule by requiring black bear and cougar traps to be checked every 48 hours. Every 24 hours would be more humane. An animal caught in a trap can endure days of pain, stress, dehydration, exposure and injury while waiting for the trapper to return.
263	7/21/2026 16:26	Courtney Dillard	general public	Please limit the time that trappers need to check their traps for black bear and cougar to 24 hours. It is incredibly inhumane to let an animal languish in these types of traps for long periods of time. Thank you for your consideration and representation.

264	7/22/2026 9:04	Brandy S. James	Damage control trapper	I am commenting in opposition to the proposed rule change in trap check times. The basis for the statutes on damage control, is damage to private property, and providing a process to address the damage. That seems to have been lost in this process. In an attempt to align damage and fur bearer trapping, this proposal does not factor in the uncontrollable elements of damage control trapping. The risk of falling out of compliance is so prohibitive, it will in all reality, interfere with private property owners to protect their property, the costs will put an undue burden on them. The people advocating for the proposed rule are not the people having property damaged, or the people trying to address the damage, they are people that would prefer that zero animals be taken on damage. Black bears and cougars are thriving in Oregon, so much so that they are coming into conflict with private property rights at an increasing rate, restricting the ability to address such issues, will in the end not benefit the wildlife or the property owners. Additionally the rule is poorly worded and will nullify the ability to use technology, which in of itself is more than enough cause to remove this proposal from consideration. I urge you to reject this solution to a problem that does not exist, and to focus on the start of problem, which is private property damage, and the relief afforded to the owners of said property.
265	7/22/2026 13:42	Caroline Read	General Public	Dear Members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, I support establishing a 24-hour maximum trap check requirement for black bears and cougars trapped for property damage, livestock conflicts, or public safety. Animals caught in traps should not be left to suffer for extended periods. A 24-hour check requirement is the most humane standard because it reduces pain, stress, dehydration, injury, and the risk of prolonged suffering for both target and non-target wildlife. Oregon already recognizes the importance of regular trap checks for other trapped mammals. Bears and cougars deserve at least the same level of humane treatment, and a 24-hour standard reflects responsible wildlife management while maintaining the ability to address conflicts. Please adopt a 24-hour maximum trap check requirement to ensure Oregon's wildlife is treated with compassion and respect. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Caroline Read
266	7/22/26 14:16:57	Matthew Webb	General public	Thank you Commission members for addressing the lack of trap-check requirements for black bears and cougars. I would like to sincerely urge the Commission to require these traps to be checked at least every 24 hours. Allowing animals to remain trapped for upwards of 56 hours could cause prolonged suffering and also puts pets and other non-target wildlife at risk. A 24-hour requirement would be a more humane and responsible standard.
267	7/22/26 19:54:39	Maureen O'Neal	general public	I'd like to encourage the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen the proposed rule to check traps every 48 hours., instead of 56 hours. Any animal or human could be caught in there, starving in pain without water for days, and this is terribly inhumane and cruel. It is the least we can do as landowners and Oregon citizens to make sure no one is suffering for days, in a trap that catch anyone or anything, indiscriminately. WE could, and should , do better..
268	7/22/26 21:27:41	Chris Shank	general public	I am asking the Commission to check wolf and bear traps every 24 hours.

269	7/23/26 8:22:45	Patricia Scarci	general public	It is critical for wildlife to survive that traps are checked as often as possible, I would say every 48 hours, but fully support the ODFW proposal of not to exceed 56 hours. It would also be helpful if the state could provide funding to help landowners use livestock guardian dogs, but I fully support the proposal by ODFW not to exceed 56 hours.
270	7/23/26 8:25:33	Lana Douglass	General public	Please require trap checks within a 24 hour maximum time period. Responsible hunting must be a requirement and traps pose uncontrollable hazard to non-target species. If trapping is to be legal, it must be mandated in a responsible fashion. A hunter cannot have more traps than they are able to maintain and wildlife must not be allowed to suffer inordinately due to the hunter's lack of care. Please mandate 24 hour traps checks and enforce them. Thank you.
271	7/23/26 8:29:34	Natalie Knopf	General public	We want wildlife to live free and happy lives. We do not want them spending time dying in traps. Enough with the cruelty.
272	7/23/26 8:37:28	Jan Marie Norto	general public	Twenty-four hours is more than long enough for pumas or bears to be caught in a trap!
273	7/23/26 8:37:53	Trish Marie	General public	Please mandate that trappers MUST check traps at least once every 24 hours. Trapping is traumatic enough for wildlife without being stuck in a trap for 56 hours! If trappers are trying to address a specific problem animal, checking their trap every 24 hours should not be a burden. If they're putting out so many traps they can't get to them all in 24 hours, they are clearly over-trapping. Wasting the resource as well as wanton cruelty and irresponsibility. Thank you.
274	7/23/26 8:39:27	alayna saundera	general public	i am concerned and against trapping. especially for such a long time duration. if they're going to be used, they need to be checked far more often than 56 hours.
275	7/23/26 8:40:16	Nicholas	Constituent	Under Oregon's newly proposed rule, a black bear or cougar could remain caught in a trap for up to 56 hours before the trapper is required to check it. If a trapper claims they're setting traps to address a specific conflict, they should also be able to check those traps promptly. If there are too many traps to check within 24 hours, that's a reasonable question to ask about whether the trapping effort is truly limited to addressing a localized problem. At a minimum, bears and cougars deserve protections that are at least as strong as those already required for many other trapped animals.
276	7/23/26 10:01:37	Pamela Williams	Member of the ca	Trap check times should be no more than 24 hours — and preferably less. Traps are indiscriminate torture devices that should be phased out completely, but in the meantime 24 hours to check each trap is the absolute MAXIMUM.
277	7/23/26 10:17:03	Lilith Harrison	General public	Do not allow traps for these beautiful creatures, it's absolutely inhumane.
278	7/23/26 10:21:05	Daina Mueller	General public	Help the bears and cougars from traps! Keep our land free from companies and let the ecosystem heal!!!
279	7/23/26 10:21:34	Anna Drachuk	General public	Please stop the suffering! As the nation, in 2026, it's embarrassing to treat our wildlife like this.
280	7/23/26 10:55:54	Sara	General public	Allowing cougars and bears to be more explicitly targeted by traps, and then to allow them to be in these traps for up to 56 hours is unnecessary and cruel. They did not ask to be dragged into the disputes between humans and their animal neighbors, they're doing the best they can, and these conflicts can be managed by different methods. Leaving them distressed and vulnerable is not what we do as Oregonians.
281	7/23/26 11:10:02	Z allen	Public	Stop torturing animals in traps. Trapping is evil and causes immense pain and suffering.

282	7/23/26 11:18:35	Mike Cafferata	Oregon Small Wood	Dear Chair Wahl and Commission Members, The Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed revisions to the rules addressing wildlife. Oregon's family forestland owners manage their lands for many different objectives. While producing timber is an important goal for some, our members also actively manage their properties to provide wildlife habitat, improve water quality, protect streams, support recreation, grow livestock, and leave healthy forests for future generations. Family forestland owners invest significant time and resources into their landscapes. For the most part, we love seeing bears, cougars, and other wildlife on the landscape, and they are often the highlights of our game camera reels. While wildlife damage is relatively rare, bears in particular can cause significant damage to forest resources. Landowners need practical, effective, and timely tools to address situations where wildlife is causing unacceptable economic losses or preventing successful forest management. We have current examples of bears causing damage to trees that landowners have invested significant time and effort in establishing—only to have that work destroyed in a matter of minutes by a bear. On rare occasions, individual bears acquire a taste for the sweet cambium layer of young Douglas-fir, grand fir, hemlock, cedars, and even redwood trees. A single bear can strip the bark and destroy hundreds of trees in a relatively short period of time. In those situations, landowners need tools to prevent significant losses, just as businesses in other sectors are allowed to prevent economic losses. OSWA believes that policies governing forestry should be applied consistently across land uses. The ODF&W recommendation brings the trap check requirements for bears and cougars into alignment with other areas where trapping is used to support land management. This is a rational and consistent change, and OSWA supports the recommendation. For these reasons, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association supports the staff recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of Oregon's family forestland owners. Mike Cafferata OSWA Executive Director
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283	7/23/26 11:19:58	Mandy Culbertson	Oregon resident la	Thank you for addressing the current lack of trap-check requirements for black bear and cougar traps. Establishing a minimum check interval is an important improvement, but the proposed standard still allows animals to remain trapped far too long. I urge the Commission to require that traps for bears and cougars be checked at least every 24 hours. Animals caught in foothold traps or snares can experience prolonged pain, dehydration, exposure, and extreme stress. They may struggle to escape, causing severe injuries, or become vulnerable to predators or conflict with people. Non-target animals, including pets and native wildlife, are also regularly caught in these traps, making timely checks even more important. The proposed rule allowing up to 56 hours between inspections does not adequately reduce these welfare concerns. In fact, it creates a weaker standard than many people would reasonably expect for animals captured alive. At an absolute minimum, trap-check requirements for bears and cougars should be no less protective than Oregon's existing 48-hour requirements for other trapped wildlife. I also question whether a person claiming to be addressing a specific nuisance bear or cougar would reasonably need so many traps spread over such a large area that they cannot be inspected within 24 to 48 hours. Nuisance situations are generally localized and targeted. If traps cannot be checked promptly, it suggests that too many traps have been deployed to responsibly monitor them. Please adopt a rule requiring traps to be checked every 24 hours. If the Commission is unwilling to do so, it should at least establish a maximum interval of 48 hours, consistent with existing Oregon trapping regulations. Thank you for considering my comments.
284	7/23/26 12:14:59	Marius	No	I hope the planet's reset comes as soon as possible; people don't deserve to live anymore—they cause too much harm!
285	7/23/26 12:17:37	Steven Devadan	general public	Animal advocate
286	7/23/26 12:20:16	M Thomp	Gen pop	I'm so sorry animals of this world.
287	7/23/26 12:20:45	Violet Vandever	state government	This is cruel and torturous. Please do not allow.
288	7/23/26 12:22:10	Guloim Zhapbar	General public	Please do not extend the duration an animal can be trapped for before checking.
289	7/23/26 12:23:08	Audrey Huntingt	general public	Checking traps every 56 hours is incredibly inhumane. Keep it required to every 24 hours!
290	7/23/26 12:25:04	Christiana Bukte	general public	imagine roaming freely in your own home — only to be struck by a trap and forced into a state of urgency. But to your dismay you cannot escape and continue on with your day. how do you think those animals feel when they go out to hunt and survive only to be held captive by YOUR cause. do better and free these animals. they do not premeditate harm to you — you premeditate harm to them.
291	7/23/26 12:29:37	Tyne Swedish	Us citizen	Do not allow animal abuse!
292	7/23/26 12:30:47	Sherry Wu	General public	I hereby oppose the rule of allowing cougars and bears to be trapped for up to 56 hours.
293	7/23/26 12:30:54	Natalia Nicholso	General public	How'd u like to b locked in a cage 56 hrs?

294	7/23/26 12:32:58	Tassyn Miller	General public	I am writing to oppose the proposed 56-hour trap check interval for bear and cougar traps set by landowners or their agents under the 2026-2028 Furbearer Regulations. Oregon already requires furbearer traps, including live-capture and restraining traps, to be checked every 48 hours under OAR 635-050-0045. The proposed rule allows bears and cougars, animals far larger and more powerful than any furbearer currently regulated, to remain confined for up to 56 hours, eight hours longer than the existing furbearer standard. Extended confinement in a trap carries documented risks: dental fractures and jaw damage from repeated biting at the trap, self-inflicted limb injury from struggling, and overheating in enclosed sets such as culvert traps. These risks increase with time. A 56-hour interval is not a minor gap from 48 hours, it's a step backward in animal welfare protection for exactly the species most capable of severely injuring themselves while trying to escape. I ask the Commission to set the trap check interval for bear and cougar traps at 24 hours, consistent with the shortest intervals already used for restraining traps in Oregon, and to require the same standard for any agent operating on a landowner's behalf.
295	7/23/26 12:34:58	Laurie stern	Public	Do not let bears and cougars suffer in traps. Stop.
296	7/23/26 12:43:36	Stefanie Bergma	Public	I strongly urge Oregon to end the use of body-gripping traps for bears and cougars. These animals play vital roles in maintaining healthy ecosystems, and trapping them in ways that leave them restrained for extended periods is inhumane and causes unnecessary stress and prolonged suffering. If trapping continues to be permitted, trap check intervals should be much shorter to minimize animal suffering. Humane wildlife management should both prioritize science-based conservation and the ethical treatment of wildlife. Allowing bears and cougars to remain in traps for long periods of time does not reflect those principles.
297	7/23/26 12:43:45	Maura Kennedy	General public	End trapping!!
298	7/23/26 12:45:53	Coraima Rojas	Human	Protect wildlife! Stop killing cougars and bears, wolves and any other wildlife!
299	7/23/26 12:53:38	Joanne Kendall	general public	Do not allow a 56 hour time lapse to check traps. Traps need to be checked every 24 hours. If the hunter doesn't have time to do a 24 hour check then they should not be hunting. Animals deserve respect.
300	7/23/26 12:58:00	Paige	General public	Please have more respect for these animals. Please.
301	7/23/26 13:00:54	Scott Bowns	General public	No animal should be trapped for so many hours. Actually now days there should be a camera at every trap so the person can un trap the animal. It can be any animal that gets trapped. Totally inhumane to leave any animal trapped for 56 hours not even 2 hours. How would the person trapping gets trapped and left there for days.
302	7/23/26 13:01:56	Candice Dusch	General Public	This is incredibly cruel. Traps should outright illegal, but if you insist on allowing them they need to be checked daily.
303	7/23/26 13:05:19	Jennifer Conte	Public	It is inhumane to allow any animal to be trapped for 56 hours. Enforce tighter and higher standards for trapping.
304	7/23/26 13:11:30	Erica St John	General public	This proposal is inhumane. Strongly oppose keeping animals in traps for this long. Come on.
305	7/23/26 13:14:51	Sylvia Weyenbe	General public	I oppose allowing traps and trapped animals to not be checked for 56 hours. This would be a very cruel and careless process. I am actually opposed to trapping all together.

306	7/23/26 13:22:01	Joseph Naidnur	General public	I urge the Commission to require 24-hour trap checks for bears and cougars. Longer trap-check timeframes are cruel and dangerous.
307	7/23/26 13:22:36	Shanti Zinzi	General public, co	End the cruelty practices. Why supporting such barbarianism?? There are successful co existence deterrents. t
308	7/23/26 13:27:52	Jasmyne Bils	General public	Checking traps every 24 hours is a more humane standard because it reduces the amount of time an animal may experience pain, stress, fear, dehydration, hunger, or exposure to extreme weather after being captured. More frequent inspections also lower the risk of injuries caused by prolonged struggling and decrease the chance of predation or other complications while the animal is restrained. A 24-hour trap-check requirement helps ensure that captured animals are dealt with promptly and responsibly, reflecting a stronger commitment to ethical wildlife management and animal welfare while maintaining effective trapping practices.
309	7/23/26 13:32:13	Kerstin	Public	No to trapping cougars or bears or any animal!!!! Maybe humans but definitely not animals.
310	7/23/26 13:36:16	Allison Shinsky	General public	This is completely inhumane, this should never be allowed.
311	7/23/26 13:40:23	Carolyn Glassma	General public	Please do not allow any animal to be trapped especially up to 56 hours. Trapping is such an inhumane way to kill an animal. I don't understand why there is so much hatred toward our wildlife. There is room for all and we need to coexist. Please do the right thing and STOP trapping. Thank you, Carolyn
312	7/23/26 13:41:09	Maria Bone	Citizen	This rule is inhumane and a vile disrespect to life. I strongly condemn it and hope that this rule will be reconsidered. No living being deserves this mistreatment.
313	7/23/26 13:42:00	Chiara Gustafson	General public	Please, please do not allow for prolonged trapping times. Could you even imagine that pain?
314	7/23/26 13:46:03	Weston	General public	Do not allow animals to be trapped for any amount of time. It is irresponsible to permit any needless and harmful trapping of native wildlife.
315	7/23/26 13:46:29	Lydia Banks	Private Citizen no	If cruelty could get an award, I guess this is the equivalent to an Oscar. When is ok to even have leg traps ???? Then leave animal in these torture devices for 56 hours.what kind of heartless humans are you people in charge.
316	7/23/26 13:47:03	Michele Pacheco	General punlic	Stop trapping wild animals!!!!
317	7/23/26 13:47:30	Dani Palmer	General public	I love Oregon, it's natural resources, and it's wildlife. To allow an animal to be trapped for so long, suffering, is inhumane and cruel. It makes us no better than barbarians. Try to tap into what empathy you still have and do something right.
318	7/23/26 13:50:29	Dr Schott	General public	Trapping should be made completely illegal!!!! It's absolute torture and inhumane to leave a trap unchecked for 56 hours!!! That is insane! No no no!
319	7/23/26 13:52:07	Edenir Copeland	General public	Trapping is the ultimate cruelty to animals, ban all trapping. And this new rule is unbelievably cruel.
320	7/23/26 13:52:21	Rachel	None	Trapping animals is barbaric. Trapping and letting them suffer for days!? Shameful that it's even being considered. Where's the humanity!??
321	7/23/26 13:59:41	Carlee Bewick	General Public	A 56 hour trap check is inhumane. A 24 hour trap check needs to be required if we are to allow trapping.

322	7/23/26 14:00:15	Ana Gonzalez	General public	No trapping of cougars, bears or any animal especially leaving the animal trapped for 56 hours ? This is abhorrent, hideous policy and it should not pass! We are not a nation of criminals and this is criminal treatment of our wildlife. Unacceptable, nope, whoever came up with this measure should resign and never hold office again.
323	7/23/26 14:03:52	Erin Rogers	General public	24 hours at most!
324	7/23/26 14:04:54	Thad Dickinson	General public	Dear Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission: As a former resident and a frequent visitor to the state, I'm writing to express my concern regarding current trap-check requirements for bears and cougars. I respectfully urge the Commission to require that all traps be checked at least every 24 hours. Allowing animals to remain trapped for up to 56 hours can result in significant and unnecessary suffering and doesn't align with the objective of minimizing harm to wildlife. If trapping is intended to address specific, localized conflicts, prompt monitoring of traps is essential to ensure humane treatment of animals. Furthermore, if a trapper is unable to inspect all of their traps within a 24-hour period, it suggests that they may be maintaining more traps than they can responsibly manage. Thank you for your time.
325	7/23/26 14:08:28	Jen Cohen	General public	This is barbaric and cruel. There needs to be protections in place for wildlife survival. All of our lives depend on it.
326	7/23/26 14:09:10	Christin Gest	General public	Please reconsider the 56 hour trapping rule. It appears excessive, inhumane, and prolongs suffering of trapped animals. I am unsure of the reasoning behind this as beneficial to any species, let alone that of which is trapped. If we cannot ban trapping please consider the minimal suffering and humane ethics of the action. Thank you for your time.
327	7/23/26 14:11:17	Sandy Tao	General public	Allowing a living being to be painfully trapped for over two days is extreme cruelty. This is something sick people do.
328	7/23/26 14:12:21	Caroline Cesped	General Public	Please do not leave animals to suffer for days on end by passing this bill.
329	7/23/26 14:13:13	Lucia	Public	I dont agree with this rule
330	7/23/26 14:13:55	Jennifer Walsh	Concerned citizen	I am writing to urge you to require a maximum of 24 hours for trappers to check traps and to not extend that past 24 hours. Personally, I believe trapping should be out loud completely, but leaving the cougar or black bear trapped for more than 24 hours is not only inhumane, but it's dangerous as often these traps cause harm to other wildlife. Please enforce a maximum of 24 hours for trappers to check traps. Or better yet please consider banning traps altogether. Thank you for your time.
331	7/23/26 14:16:43	Anthony Vasque	Public	56 hrs seems beyond inhumane to check on a living creature in a trap. 24 hrs is at least an improvement , but still not the best option. Consider consulting with veterinarians and wildlife professionals with verified credentials.
332	7/23/26 14:18:51	C. Herrero	General public	Stop killing our wildlife! Protect them they protect this earth if they die we die! Do your job!
333	7/23/26 14:19:48	Caroline Vaught	General public	Please do not allow trappers 56 hours before they are required to check predator traps. This is such an inhumane rule that should never even be considered. It's cruel, unethical and gives hunting/trapping a bad name. Traps should be checked within 24 hours. If that's too inconvenient for the trapper, then they should find another hobby. Let's be honest no one in 2026 feeds their family by trapping animals.

334	7/23/26 14:21:21	Aimee Vaughn	General Public	Be humane!!!
335	7/23/26 14:25:22	jessica garcia	general public	Allowing animals to be trapped for multiple hours, let alone 56 hours is inhumane and mustn't be allowed. We have an obligation to the wildlife around us to help protect them and to respect them. Please do not allow them to be trapped and left to suffer.
336	7/23/26 14:29:25	Tianni Rutt	Concerned Citizen	Dear Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners, I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed rule allowing trap check intervals of up to 56 hours for bear and cougar traps, and to instead adopt a shorter, more humane standard — ideally 24 hours. Fifty-six hours is well over two full days. An animal caught in a restraining trap during that time faces prolonged physical suffering: exposure to weather, dehydration, injury from struggling against the trap, and vulnerability to predators or starvation. For a highly mobile, wide-ranging species like cougar, the psychological distress of extended restraint is also significant. No timeframe that allows an animal to suffer for over two days can reasonably be called humane. This proposal would also place Oregon out of step with the growing national trend toward shorter check intervals. Many states already require trap checks within 24 hours specifically because it minimizes suffering, reduces non-target animal mortality, and allows for the timely release of animals caught by mistake. A 56-hour window undermines all of these goals. I recognize that trap checking requires real time and resources from trappers, especially in remote terrain. However, animal welfare should not be secondary to convenience when the difference is measured in days of suffering. I ask the Commission to: Reject the 56-hour trap check proposal for bear and cougar traps. Adopt a 24-hour trap check requirement instead, consistent with the strongest animal welfare standards used elsewhere. Prioritize humane treatment of wildlife in all future trapping regulations. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. Sincerely, [Your name] A few notes: Since the comment deadline is July 24 at 8 a.m., I'd recommend submitting this ASAP through ODFW's rulemaking comment page. I kept the ask focused (24 hours) rather than just opposing 56 hours, since commissions tend to respond better to a concrete alternative than a pure rejection. Want me to look up the exact ODFW comment submission link/portal so you can send this today? Want to be notified when Claude responds?
337	7/23/26 14:35:21	Katerine Aubry	potential tourist	"Potential tourist" but if this is the new rule,I'll make sure to avoid spending any of my tourist money in your state.Unusual cruelty has no place in any public or private policy.Our wildlife doesn't deserve to be tortured to death.I oppose vehemently anything that would make us humans look like beasts and monsters.We need to preserve our wildlife and in doing so,we will preserve our humanity!Thank you..
338	7/23/26 14:35:28	Carolita	General public	A 56hr hold is barbaric, cruel & vile! These traps should be banned, but while they're still around they should be checked within 24hrs.
339	7/23/26 14:37:34	Barb Mezg	Gen public	Any traps set MUST be checked every 24 hours and not longer duration as this would be more inhumane and would allow excessive trap setting with unrealistic follow up
340	7/23/26 14:39:25	Tracy Knight	Civilian	Traps are cruel enough as it is, but to leave an animal to suffer that long is a sick disregard for life.

341	7/23/26 14:41:11 Kaitlyn McCurdy	General public	Please don't enforce this cruel practice. This will lead to prolonging suffering of all animals who fall victim to these traps.
342	7/23/26 14:42:13 Jill	Public	This is abhorrent. No animal should be trapped at all, but if they are, it should be done in a non-lethal and pain-free way.
343	7/23/26 14:43:06 Haley	General public	No wild animal should be left suffering in a trap for up to 56 hours. Cougars and bears deserve better. A mandatory 24-hour trap check is a reasonable, humane standard.
344	7/23/26 14:46:46 Caroline Diamor	General public	Trapping is fundamentally inhumane but allowing an animal to suffer for extended periods of time is inexcusable.
345	7/23/26 14:48:43 Meghann	General public	Animals that are trapped should immediately be addressed, not left to panic and suffer for hours and days.
346	7/23/26 14:56:12 Elijah	General public	I speak against this rule and the check time should be reduced.
347	7/23/26 14:57:49 Shaun	U.S. Citizen	Bears are like dogs specifically black bears they are aloof slow moving and they are always looking for someone to match the same hope they have in there eyes. By trapping black bears you are setting a terrible precedent. These animals don't even know what's wrong with them so what is wrong with them? They just want to go about there business. They are natural wanders of the earth the planet that's how god made them. To roam and of course be free. I cannot speak for coyotes but bears are the gentle giants that we see roaming in cities now on social media there's plenty of examples of them passing by with no harm done. I think we need to look deeper and realize that they aren't actually a problem. And if there's farm animals that need to be protected let's not do something cruel at the expense of the bear. God if you believe in a god does not like us being the wild life police for something so pure something so aloof and gentle that we want to take away. Our lands our future will only be blessed again if we become pure in our ways again and respect nature and wild life as when we first came here. This is something that goes beyond the statistics but the returns we'll get from our ethical actions for live beings. Coyotes though more aggressive than bears do not deserve a dire fate either. I hope we can come to our senses and all be better. Thank you
348	7/23/26 14:58:18 Stephanie case	General public	The mistreatment and suffering of animals has to stop. It is absolutely not appropriate to allow wild animals to be caged for days. It's extremely obvious. Why are people morally-bankrupt
349	7/23/26 14:58:27 Winnie Hohan	General Public, No	I would like to urge 24 hour checks for all traps as it is inhumane to leave an animal suffering for any amount of time, let alone days. This increases the risk for those transferring trapped animals as they are injured, hungry and in a state of defense. There is no animal or human who would benefit from this policy, only harm can come from this type of negligence. I ask for compassion over cruelty for these living beings. Thank you.
350	7/23/26 15:02:51 Lila	General Public	Opposing the 56 hour trapping rule.
351	7/23/26 15:07:50 Janet Fulton	General public	This is totally unacceptable. We are going backwards in your thinking. I am at a loss for words for this barbaric treatment of any animal.

352	7/23/26 15:09:22	Valerie Catrice	General public	I am writing to oppose the proposed 56-hour trap check interval for bear and cougar traps set by landowners or their agents under the 2026-2028 Furbearer Regulations. Oregon already requires furbearer traps, including live-capture and restraining traps, to be checked every 48 hours under OAR 635-050-0045. The proposed rule allows bears and cougars, animals far larger and more powerful than any furbearer currently regulated, to remain confined for up to 56 hours, eight hours longer than the existing furbearer standard. Extended confinement in a trap carries documented risks: dental fractures and jaw damage from repeated biting at the trap, self-inflicted limb injury from struggling, and overheating in enclosed sets such as culvert traps. These risks increase with time. A 56-hour interval is not a minor gap from 48 hours, it's a step backward in animal welfare protection for exactly the species most capable of severely injuring themselves while trying to escape. I ask the Commission to set the trap check interval for bear and cougar traps at 24 hours, consistent with the shortest intervals already used for restraining traps in Oregon, and to require the same standard for any agent operating on a landowner's behalf.
353	7/23/26 15:10:32	Sandra Bravo	General public	Please keep the trap for only 24 hours. 56 hours is inhumane and cruel punishment for any wild animal.
354	7/23/26 15:14:13	Sierra	Gen pub	Please don't allow the trapping rule, it's is cruel to leave an animal suffering for extended amounts of time
355	7/23/26 15:27:30	Laura Jonasse	Concerned citizen	No animals deserves to suffer one bit and especially 56 hours. If any human has to do this it would be wrong and this is wrong!
356	7/23/26 15:29:25	Dina Athanassie	Concerned member	I respectfully urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to require that traps set for black bears and cougars be checked at least every 24 hours rather than allowing animals to remain trapped for up to 56 hours. I recognize that these rules apply to situations involving damage, nuisance, or public safety concerns, and I understand that wildlife managers and landowners sometimes need effective tools to address those conflicts. However, once an animal has been trapped, there is a responsibility to minimize unnecessary suffering. A 24-hour trap-check requirement is both reasonable and humane. If a trapping effort is truly focused on resolving a specific, localized conflict, then checking those traps daily should be an achievable expectation. Extending the interval to as much as 56 hours unnecessarily increases the risk of prolonged stress, injury, dehydration, exposure to extreme weather, and delayed release of any non-target animals. This proposal is not about whether trapping should be permitted; it is about ensuring that, when trapping is used, it is conducted responsibly and with appropriate regard for animal welfare. At a minimum, bears and cougars deserve protections that are at least as strong as those already required for many other trapped wildlife species. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to responsible wildlife management.
357	7/23/26 15:32:54	Irka seng	General public	This is so cruel and beyond any level of comprehension

358	7/23/26 15:36:52	Jamie	General public	Why??? Just why does humanity insist on cruelty?? We deliberately try to harm and torture, not only other humans, but other creatures we SHARE this planet with. There is no legitimate logical reason to allow these souls to be trapped for over 50hours! Just plain and simple cruelty. Needless to say, as a person with basic decency and a soul, I am against this proposal.
359	7/23/26 15:40:20	Oliver Clague	General public	Trapping should be banned outright, the minimum that could be done is maintain or tighten check times, not extend them
360	7/23/26 15:46:50	Jared Hartman	Concerned citizen	Trapping is disgusting and should be banned entirely
361	7/23/26 15:55:32	Shari	General public	I strongly urge the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to require all traps capable of capturing bears and cougars to be checked at least every 24 hours. No wild animal should be left suffering in a trap for up to 56 hours. Prolonged confinement can cause severe injuries, dehydration, starvation, extreme stress, and make animals vulnerable to predators or heat exposure. Bears and cougars deserve the same humane protections already afforded to many other trapped species. If trapping is truly being used to address a specific conflict, traps should be monitored promptly and responsibly. Wildlife should not endure unnecessary suffering simply because traps are left unchecked. Please adopt a 24-hour trap check requirement to better protect Oregon's native wildlife and promote more humane, ethical wildlife management.
362	7/23/26 15:56:27	Stacy S.	General Public	Trapping in general is inhumane, but to allow prolonged suffering is cruel. I dont think you want that associated with your states legacy.
363	7/23/26 15:58:51	Linda Dryer Crar	General public	Its cruel enough trapping animals, but its absolutely sadistic and evil letting them suffer. Humanity must be better than that. Pure evil.
364	7/23/26 15:58:55	Autumn Mangar	General public	Stop trapping of animals for up to 56 hours, replace this action with something actually inherently humane.
365	7/23/26 15:59:40	Cruel punishmer	General public	Inhumane
366	7/23/26 16:04:01	Alejandra Mena	General public	We need to respect and PROTECT animals from pain, cruelty or traps, we need to take care of them
367	7/23/26 16:08:57	Denise Peterson	General public	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I respectfully ask that you reject the 56 hour trap check recommendation and instead require a 24 hour trap check regulation for bears and cougars. Thank you.
368	7/23/26 16:13:49	RH	Citizen	It is monstrous for animals to be trapped at all, but certainly no longer than 24 hours before the traps are legally required to be checked!
369	7/23/26 16:16:40	Melinda Davidsc	Concerned US citiz	Wildlife traps are already cruel, and indiscriminate of who gets caught between the painful steel jaws of one of these horrible devices. The very least that can be done if these are to be allowed is to make sure trappers are checking their traps every 24 hours. Please protect our wildlife from suffering, endlessly and painful traps for extended periods of time.!!!
370	7/23/26 16:18:03	Jamie Green	public	You must check traps every 24 hrs or less. Or better yet, dont allow trapping at all!
371	7/23/26 16:18:05	Kathryn Bolante	Public	Absolutely not allowed!!! Set them free!!
372	7/23/26 16:28:50	Michael Nowak	General public	This is torture. Please do not allow this to become legal
373	7/23/26 16:31:01	Shannon	General public	This is absolutely insane and inhumane. These are living beings! Fuck this.

374	7/23/26 16:32:16 Annie	General	Trapping animals is evil- torture and should be banned forever. What happened in life to make anyone think that torture of helpless animals is okay. If you're going to hunt do it fairly with an immediate death to prevent this evilness. I can't believe this is even a conversation-
375	7/23/26 16:33:46 April West	General public	Please require traps to be checked at least every 24 hours. Allowing animals to remain trapped for up to 56 hours causes unnecessary suffering and is inconsistent with the goal of minimizing harm. If trapping is truly being used to address localized conflicts, traps should be checked promptly. If someone cannot check all of their traps in 24 hours, then they have too many. Thank you for considering my comment.
376	7/23/26 16:35:18 MJ drucker	General public	This is inhumane .
377	7/23/26 16:51:33 Erin Williams	General public	This rule is cruel and disgusting and no animal should be trapped let alone for so long. How can this even be considered? Wildlife deserves protection not torture.
378	7/23/26 17:01:35 Katayoon Zandv	General public	Please don't allow these innocent animals to suffer in traps .. it's heinously cruel. Thank you for showing mercy and respect to wildlife.
379	7/23/26 17:02:53 Shanti Williams	General public	Animal traps should never be legal under any circumstances.
380	7/23/26 17:20:00 Dr Cody Traweel	Concerned Oregon	Despite the fact that we should ban trapping due to indiscriminate animal cruelty, I am urging the commission to enforce 24 hour trap checks at a minimum. Extending the trap rule leaves our vulnerable wildlife terrified, suffering in pain and without access to food or water. Please do NOT extend trapping checks beyond 24 hours. Oregon can do better for our wildlife. Ethical hunting requires demonstrated responsibility.
381	7/23/26 17:33:12 Claudia Perez	General Public	Traps should not be even necessary , this is their home . I beg that traps are checked every 24hours . I would beg there were no traps .
382	7/23/26 17:36:48 Paige	California	Don't rule it wtf
383	7/23/26 17:40:15 Alex Bauza	General public	Traps are cruel, inhumane, and unnecessary. Allowing an animal to stay trapped for an extended period of time is even worse. Please reconsider this option and think of how it will affect the lives of these animals that are simply trying to exist in what's left of their homes.
384	7/23/26 17:45:51 Roy Wang	general public	I'm writing to address the trap-check requirements for bears and cougars, urging the trap-check limit to be reduced to, at a maximum, every 24 hours. Allowing animals to remain trapped for up to 56 hours causes unnecessary suffering and is inconsistent with the goal of minimizing harm. If trapping is truly being used to address localized conflicts, traps should be checked promptly. Moreover, if someone cannot check all of their traps within 24 hours, then they simply have too many, or they are spread too thin and require additional human resources in order to check them. Thank you for considering my comment.
385	7/23/26 18:00:22 Shellie magana	Citizen	Trapping is inhumane to began with. Leaving wild life trapped for hours on end is deplorable.

386	7/23/26 18:04:07	Brian Posewitz	Humane Voters Or	Thank for for addressing the absence of trap-check times for bears and cougars. However, the proposed rules would allow animals, including non-targeted pets and other wildlife, to suffer for too long in restraining traps. If trapping is allowed to continue, trappers should be required to check their traps at least once every 24 hours. That is the recommendation of professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. At the very least, ODFW rules should require trappers to check their traps at least once every 48 hours, which would still allow too much animal suffering but would at least be consistent with requirements for other trapped species in Oregon ("furbearers" and predatory/unprotected animals). Allowing animals to suffer an additional eight hours (up to 56 hours total) should not be permitted. Thank you for considering our comments.
387	7/23/26 18:05:29	Cynthia Woscek	General Public	Please do not allow these poor creatures to suffer for up to 3 days before being checked again. This is disgusting and unacceptable.
388	7/23/26 18:19:20	Delilah	General Public	I ask the Commission to set the trap check interval for bear and cougar traps at 24 hours, consistent with the shortest intervals already used for restraining traps in Oregon, and to require the same standard for any agent operating on a landowner's behalf.
389	7/23/26 18:21:01	Ximena Zamaco	General público	I am writing to oppose the proposed 56-hour trap check interval for bear and cougar traps set by landowners. This is a step backwards in animal farewell. It is cruel and implies a lot of pain, broken bones, infections and debilitating trauma to any animal. i ask the Comission to set the trap. Interval check to 24 hours consistent with the current regulations in Oregon. Kindly, Ximena Zamacona
390	7/23/26 18:27:50	Dixie	Retired govt empl	This is horrifying! Why would a government agency that is ensured with keeping animals safe be involved with an inhumane practice that tortures animals? This is absolutely insane! The idea of this moving forward must be stopped immediately. It is our duty to protect and respect animals, not torture and abuse the.! Whoever is responsible for this should be fired immediately. Absolutely horrifying! Protect innocent animals at any cost!!!
391	7/23/26 18:34:18	Juniper	General public	Trapping is already cruel and inhumane. Trappers should at least be responsible for minimizing suffering as much as possible.
392	7/23/26 18:56:55	Jocelyn Stokes	General public	It is unethical to use traps for hunting predators and it is especially unethical to leave them in a trap for any length of time but especially longer than an hour!
393	7/23/26 19:02:25	Jill Aboussie	General public	Please stop this atrocity.
394	7/23/26 19:13:10	Alexa Divett	General public	This is cruel, inhumane and unnecessary. When will it finally be enough to simply hunt and trap without adding more suffering
395	7/23/26 19:25:32	Selene Borrás	General Public	How can you do this? These poor animals! Have some compassion and decency. This are intelligent animals. Please don't do this!!!
396	7/23/26 19:25:50	Chelsea McCart	General public	Please do not allow trapping. Please do not allow any animal to remain in a trap for any extended period of time. This is heinous. Please, please do your part to end animal cruelty.

397	7/23/26 19:29:33	Dina Mousa	General public	I am writing to oppose the proposed 56-hour trap check interval for bear and cougar traps set by landowners or their agents under the 2026-2028 Furbearer Regulations. Oregon already requires furbearer traps, including live-capture and restraining traps, to be checked every 48 hours under OAR 635-050-0045. The proposed rule allows bears and cougars, animals far larger and more powerful than any furbearer currently regulated, to remain confined for up to 56 hours, eight hours longer than the existing furbearer standard. Extended confinement in a trap carries documented risks: dental fractures and jaw damage from repeated biting at the trap, self-inflicted limb injury from struggling, and overheating in enclosed sets such as culvert traps. These risks increase with time. A 56-hour interval is not a minor gap from 48 hours, it's a step backward in animal welfare protection for exactly the species most capable of severely injuring themselves while trying to escape. I ask the Commission to set the trap check interval for bear and cougar traps at 24 hours, consistent with the shortest intervals already used for restraining traps in Oregon, and to require the same standard for any agent operating on a landowner's behalf. Dina Mousa
398	7/23/26 19:30:00	Marcela Harden	general public	Don't allow bears and cougars to remain trapped
399	7/23/26 19:32:17	Caitlin Strom-Mc	General public, civ	This is absolutely heinous, wanton cruelty. Trapping of apex predators needs to be abolished in general, but this is a whole new level of unnecessary savagery. NO. NO. NO.
400	7/23/26 19:39:08	Jennifer Comeau	Earth Ally	Please reconsider the loooong duration of 56 hours. It is cruelty beyond measure.
401	7/23/26 19:46:01	Janine Mincks	No	Trapping Any Animals shouldn't Be Allowed!! It's Barbaric, Cruel, inhumane and completely unnecessary! Please do the right thing and ban Trapping!
402	7/23/26 19:50:54	Katrina Brandt	General public	Trapping is disgusting at all but leaving an animal to suffer for that long is disgusting and wrong. It's unethical
403	7/23/26 19:58:43	David Pisano	General public	This is far too cruel to allow animals to be trapped and suffer for so long. Please do not let this happen.
404	7/23/26 20:01:49	Cindy Walker	General Public	I'm writing today to urge the Commission to require 24-hour trap checks for bears and cougars. Trapping is inherently inhumane, often catches non-target animals, and causes immense suffering.
405	7/23/26 20:05:37	Jackie Ho	General public	An animal being trapped is inhumane, much less for 56 hours. Wildlife deserve better, we have encroached on their homes and stolen their resources. Our government needs to protect them, prevent further harm, and NOT increase their likelihood for suffering.
406	7/23/26 20:12:04	Ariel	General public	Do not leave animals in a trap for 56 hours. That is cruel punishment. We should not allow traps and at the minimum require them to be checked daily.
407	7/23/26 20:15:46	Carol Toner	General public	Allowing up to 56 hours before trappers are required to check their traps is inhumane. There is no reason to let trapped animals suffer that long. It's incredibly cruel.
408	7/23/26 20:16:11	Ashley	General public	Please stop trapping !!

409	7/23/26 20:23:45	Lisa Scharin	Christian, General	I have to say that it is truly unconscionable that anyone would have to write in response to this vile, savage proposal-it is evil, cruel enough that Humans trap Animals leaving them in severe pain, terror & anxiety-Many chew their paws off to escape, many others suffer excruciating pain, bleeding slowly to death-this is evil, sadistic and NO civilized, educated society should be treating ANY Living Being with such brutality! As a Christian-I take GOD's commandment This Shalt NOT kill seriously & to also include Animals-since GOD also forbids cruelty-cruelty destroys the Soul-it seems You have NO souls! There is something very seriously wrong with anyone who can inflict such violence, cruelty & suffering on Animals that are just trying to survive. Humans have done enough damage-We are also experiencing the 6th highest extinction rate-with 1000 species at risk globally-THAT is also a SIN-yet YOU do NOT see that-there is something deranged about seeking out another life & taking that life-finding it "fun, sport" or a "thrill" Killing is a SIN-period-and 73% of zoonotic diseases come from Animals-when I see those VILE pictures of Beautiful Animals bloody, saliva dripping-it is sickening to know there are such evil, lowlives destroying GOD's creatures-showing such delight in that death-is repugnant-ONLY evil-this behavior should NOT be tolerated, supported or accepted in the 21st century-it SHOULD be a RED flag for serious crimes against Humans-it is a FACT that Animal abusers move onto Humans-domestic violence, Child abuse, homicide, serial killings-and mass shootings-several mass shooters posted themselves torturing Animals online before shooting Humans up-the FBI calls them Link crimes-We are seeing ecosystems collapse-Wildlife are losing habitat due to human encroachment, pollution, climate change & VILE abuses like trapping! It is TIME to END, BAN trapping-NOT extend the savagery, cruelty! The LACK of empathy in this country IS a CRISIS-bullying is so severe that Children are committing suicide-more younger children are using violence to solve "problems" & shooting other students, teachers, etc!!! Allowing this behavior & contemplating giving these deranged individuals MORE leeway, favors is TRULY abhorrent, despicable and immoral, unethical & inhumane. As a CHRISTIAN-I REJECT CRUELTY-I am to bring the KINGDOM of HEAVEN to Earth-as ALL Christians should strive to do-so I say these are NO Christians-because ONLY the devil delights in suffering, pain, terror, violence, death & murder! It is TIME to BAN trapping, BAN "trophy hunting"-YOUR proposal ONLY increases the evil,, darkness and lack of empathy in this country & allows another generation to continue to evil that is clearly growing NOT shrinking-NO Christian would consider such a proposal-STOP this evil cycle-BE GOOD STEWARDS AS GOD ASKS YOU-NOT WHAT EVIL MEN ASK YOU- SERVE GOD-NOT MAN!!
410	7/23/26 20:27:50	Tiffany Birch	State	56 hours is inhumane
411	7/23/26 20:29:45	Joseph S. Cox	General public	A 56 hour time limit on checking a trap for wildlife "killing" is far too long and puts these majestic creatures in a horrible situation of possibly chewing a limb off just to escape the trap! This is wholly unacceptable and should not pass!
412	7/23/26 20:32:21	Jessica	Constituent Orego	I'm writing to address the trap-check requirements for bears and cougars. Please require traps to be checked at least every 24 hours. Allowing animals to remain trapped for up to 56 hours causes unnecessary suffering and is inconsistent with the goal of minimizing harm. If trapping is truly being used to address localized conflicts, traps should be checked promptly. If someone cannot check all of their traps in 24 hours, then they have too many. Thank you for considering my comment.

413	7/23/26 20:42:23 Chad Washington	Trade association	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission Re: Support for Draft Trap Check Rules Dear Chair Wahl and Commission members, The Oregon Forest Industries Council appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of the proposed rules establishing bear and cougar trap-check requirements. We believe the draft rules strike an appropriate balance between ensuring humane practices and preserving a critical wildlife management tool the forest sector uses judiciously to support healthy young forests. OFIC represents roughly 50 Oregon industrial timberland owners and wood products manufacturers. Our members help meet society's growing need for green building products by proudly making Oregon the number one national supplier of softwood lumber, plywood and engineered wood products. They do this while adhering to the most advanced forest practices in the country, also making Oregon the number one state in sustainable forestry. Oregon's private forestland owners share the public's appreciation for wildlife. Most bears coexist harmoniously with active forest management and are an important part of Oregon's forests. Landowners value seeing bears on the landscape and recognize the important ecological role they play. The overwhelming majority of bears never cause conflicts with forest management. However, a small number of bears sometimes develop atypical behaviors that can cause significant damage to young forests. Some individual bears strip bark from young trees, often teaching this behavior to other bears and establishing localized patterns of damage that persist over time. Left unaddressed, these behaviors can jeopardize young forests and undermine Oregon's commitment to maintaining healthy, working forests. For these reasons, the ability to remove individual bears exhibiting this behavior is a critical management tool. This approach is focused, selective and limited to individual animals exhibiting habitual destructive behavior - not on reducing overall bear populations. Precision removal allows wildlife managers and landowners to address the specific animals responsible for recurring damage while allowing the vast majority of Oregon's bear population to remain undisturbed. This focused management philosophy mirrors the approach ODFW uses in other situations involving human-wildlife conflict. When individual bears repeatedly enter communities, rummage through garbage, damage property or break into buildings, the agency has tools available to address those specific problem animals. Likewise, forest managers need practical tools to address the small number of bears whose habitual behavior threatens the health of Oregon's forests. Ensuring the health of young forests is not only important for private landowners, it is fundamental to Oregon's forests. State law requires prompt reforestation following harvest, and landowners must ensure new forests successfully establish and continue to provide wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon storage, recreation opportunities and renewable wood products for future generations. Protecting young forests during their most vulnerable years is an essential component of sustainable forest management. The proposed timeframes also appropriately support an efficient cooperative model in which experienced, highly trained trappers work on behalf of multiple landowners. This approach ensures problem animals can be removed safely, professionally and with high standards of animal welfare. OFIC supports the draft rules because they reflect a balanced, informed approach that protects animal welfare while preserving an essential management tool. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these rules and for your continued commitment to balancing wildlife conservation with the needs of Oregon's working landscapes. Sincerely, Chad Washington Director of Forest Protection Oregon Forest Industries Council
414	7/23/26 20:42:39 Melissa Turnbull	General public	If someone is trapping a living animal that trap should be checked ASAP. Or better yet, how about we don't allow trapping which is disgustingly cruel. Thank you for your time.
415	7/23/26 20:46:56 Maggie	General public	Listen to the animals
416	7/23/26 20:49:16 Kristina wheeler	General public	You must know and understand that this (unnecessary and selfish torture) would cause such deep pain, anguish, stress and prolonged fear it would cause these animals, right? Why? WHY is it necessary? Do you not believe these animals deserve compassion? Is your mind truly that small to not imagine there's more to these animals than you know? They are incredible intelligent and sensitive, who values their own lives and their young as much as we do ours. We are not so different. Expand your mind. Expand your compassion. Compassion is never wrong.
417	7/23/26 20:53:40 Karen Conradi	General public- ve	Please require 24 hours or less to check wildlife bear and cougar traps. I am not in support of trapping overall.

418	7/23/26 20:57:18	Jacqueline Gamt	General public	Thank you for addressing the lack of trap-check time requirements for bears and cougars. Please require trappers to check their traps at least once every 24 hours to limit the time animals suffer in traps. The proposed rule, which would allow trappers up to 56 hours to check their traps, would make animals suffer too long. At a minimum, the rule should be consistent with rules for trapping other animals, which require traps to be checked at least once every 48 hours. Thank you for considering my comments.
419	7/23/26 21:01:41	Renee roussel	Public	I ask for you to not follow through with this bill
420	7/23/26 21:03:51	LWren Walraver	General public	I support the requirement of all traps being checked every 24 hours at the most. Anything else is cruel
421	7/23/26 21:05:33	Janet Carter	General public	Trapping is wrong and humane, in the first place, but to leave a feeling animal in a trap for 48 hours is torture. To allow trappers to leave an animal to suffer for even longer is horrendous. We must not let this extension happen.
422	7/23/26 21:06:29	Carrie Mickelsor	General public	Please require traps to be checked at least once every 24 hours.
423	7/23/26 21:15:35	Maryanne Embu	General public	Iam against this savage policy of extending entrapment times on animals. Iam TOTALLY AGAINST trapping in any way, shape or form. It is brutal savage and unacceptable treatment of wildlife.
424	7/23/26 21:18:58	Taylor Deschene	General Public	I request these traps be checked under 24 hours for the goodness and grace of our natural companions. Be for real. Have a fucking heart.
425	7/23/26 21:24:24	Lauren suggs	Trustholder	The traps need to be constantly monitored with a camera if not outlawed for human and animal interaction. They should be checked every few hours. It is only the right thing to do. Torture is wrong especially when it involves a parent animal in front of the children cubs. No animal nor human deserves to be left in a trap.. the traps should be outlawed.animals have feelings just like humans do. do.
426	7/23/26 21:38:27	Rebecca Berk	Oregon resident	Keeping an animal trapped is cruel and should be illegal. Do not allow this travesty of humanity to become legal.
427	7/23/26 22:03:18	Lisa Perazzoli	General public	I am writing to oppose the 56-hour trap check interval for bear and cougar traps set by landowners and/or their agents under the 2026-2028 Furbearer Regulations. Oregon already requires that furbearer traps be checked every 48 hours uner OAR 635-050-0045. The proposed rule allows bears and cougars to remain confined for up to 56 hours, eight hours longer than the existing furbearer standard. Extended confinement in a trap is not only inhumane, it also carries documented risks, including overheating, dental fractures and jaw damage from biting at the trap, and self-inflicted limb injury from struggling. A 56-hour interval is not a minor increase from 48 hours; it's a step backward in animal welfare for the species most capable of injuring themselves while trying to escape. I ask the Commission to set the trap check interval for bear and cougar traps at 24 hours. This is consistent with the shortest intervals used today for restraining traps in Oregon, and to require the same standard for any agent operating on a landowner's behalf.
428	7/23/26 22:05:34	Michele Colbert	General public	Suggesting an animal stay trapped for over two days is disgusting. Trapping is disgusting.

429	7/23/26 22:06:22	Saumia Garcia	General Public	I am writing to oppose the proposed 56-hour trap check interval for bear and cougar traps set by landowners or their agents under the 2026-2028 Furbearer Regulations. Oregon already requires furbearer traps, including live-capture and restraining traps, to be checked every 48 hours under OAR 635-050-0045. The proposed rule allows bears and cougars, animals far larger and more powerful than any furbearer currently regulated, to remain confined for up to 56 hours, eight hours longer than the existing furbearer standard. Extended confinement in a trap carries documented risks: dental fractures and jaw damage from repeated biting at the trap, self-inflicted limb injury from struggling, and overheating in enclosed sets such as culvert traps. These risks increase with time. A 56-hour interval is not a minor gap from 48 hours, it's a step backward in animal welfare protection for exactly the species most capable of severely injuring themselves while trying to escape. I ask the Commission to set the trap check interval for bear and cougar traps at 24 hours, consistent with the shortest intervals already used for restraining traps in Oregon, and to require the same standard for any agent operating on a landowner's behalf.
430	7/23/26 22:35:46	Katherine Wagn	Outdoors enthusia	I encourage you to place and enforce stricter time rules for trappers. Animals suffer tremendously in these traps - even if they are causing a nuisance or threat to the public there is no reason to let the animal suffer. These traps should be checked daily in order to treat the animals humanely and help any wildlife that may have been caught accidentally. Our wildlife deserves better.
431	7/23/26 22:44:45	satya vayu	general public	Trapping is inherently cruel. If it is to be continued , please strengthen the proposed rule so that traps are required to be checked every 24 hours
432	7/23/26 22:47:02	Elena Tillman	General public	No animal should spend 56 hours trapped. Wildlife deserves better. Trapping is inherently inhumane, often catches non-target animals, and causes immense suffering. While today's proposal focuses on trap-check times, my vision is a future where cruel trapping practices are replaced with humane, science-based coexistence. I urge the Commission to require 24-hour trap checks for bears and cougars
433	7/23/26 23:04:46	T.C.	General public	Require all traps to have 24-hour checks. Wildlife should be treated with dignity and respect, not with cruelty.
434	7/23/26 23:06:30	Debra Wilson	General public	Ban all trapping of all wildlife
435	7/23/26 23:09:57	Suzanne Steel	General Public	I strongly urge against your bill, allowing cougars and bears to remain trapped for 56 hours. That is entirely inhumane and cruel and hostile and it's not acceptable.
436	7/23/26 23:32:56	Megan Cooley	NA	This is crazy and torturous! 56 hours in agony?!? No way. Animals deserve to be treated with love and compassion.
437	7/23/26 23:45:16	Sariah Hatch Zer	General Public	There shouldn't be traps for these animals to begin with. It's inhumane to subjugate them to the pain and suffering these traps cause. The least people can do is reduce the chance of them ending up in the traps, or the amount of time in them. Lessen the required trap check time to diminish their unnecessary suffering; do the right thing to release them sooner and more safely.
438	7/23/26 23:51:10	Jillian	NA	This is inhumane. No animal should have to endure this kind of treatment let alone our bears and cougars.
439	7/24/26 0:08:48	Anindita	General public	Leave them alone, let the animals just be