

Establishment of Bear and Cougar Trap Check Requirements

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**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**



Background

Classification of bear and cougar

- Game mammal (ORS 496.004)
- Established hunting seasons and bag limits

Harvest methods regulated for hunting

- Trapping prohibited
- Use of dogs prohibited
- Check in required

Take for damage, nuisance and safety separate from hunting



Damage and Nuisance

What types occur in Oregon?

Bear

- Timber damage (peeling)
- Orchards and other agriculture
- Gardens and fruit trees
- Livestock conflict not common

Cougar

- Livestock / poultry
- Pets



Take for Damage, Nuisance, Safety

ORS 498.012 and 498.166

Damage and nuisance

- Requires loss or harm occurred
- No permit required for bear or cougar
- Notification of take required
- *“Nothing in the wildlife laws intended to prevent any person from taking....”* (ORS 498.012)

Safety

- Aggressive actions, loss of wariness, attacking pets, breaking into residence
- Notification required

Currently no trap check requirement when traps used to take bear and cougar.



Trap Check – Other Species

Trap Check Work Group

- Met 8 times 2021 – 2022
- No consensus

Furbearing mammals trap

- At least once every 48 hours

Predatory animal

- Modified in 2022
- Restraining trap – 48 hours
- Killing trap / snare – 14 days

Applies to both recreational and damage trapping



Carcass Disposal / Utilization for Bear and Cougar

Required to deliver carcass to ODFW
Bears

- Edible wildlife
- Prioritize human consumption

Cougar

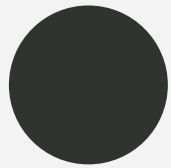
- Declared inedible

Damage - must offer to landowner

**Furbearers and predatory animals
not salvaged for consumption**

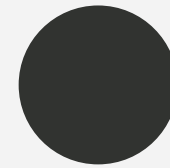


Goals of Trap Check Rule Development



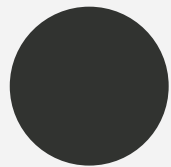
**Establish maximum time
animal could be in trap**

Consider animal welfare



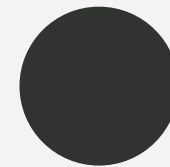
Compliment disposal rules

Prioritizing salvage for
consumption for bear



Compliant with statutes

Must retain landowner
authority to take for damage



**Retain current hunting
regulations**

Trapping remains prohibited for
recreational harvest

Proposed Trap Check Rule

Applies to any person setting trap for bear or cougar

Inspection required:

- At least once every other calendar day,
- Within period that does not exceed 56 hours, and
- All trapped animals removed

Provides opportunity for someone else to complete the check

Person who set the trap is responsible to ensure trap is checked.





Staff Recommendation:

Adopt the administrative rule establishing trap check requirements for bear and cougar trapping as proposed by staff and shown in Attachment 3.

