



File Code: 2520
Date: December 3, 2019

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

Dear Chairperson Wahl and Fish and Wildlife Commissioner members:

I am writing to request that you enact trapping restrictions on beavers within the boundaries of Siuslaw National Forest, as you have done for other national forests. National Forests that have restrictions include: the Mt. Hood National Forest, Ochoco National Forest, Malheur National Forest, Willow-Whitman National Forest, and Umatilla National Forest.

In partnership with the State of Oregon, we have been focusing time, energy and funding into large-scale aquatic restoration projects in addition to our Salmon Super Highway partnership with numerous stakeholders. Aquatic restoration improves the flow of the water through the system, ensures passage of aquatic organisms, improves the watershed condition, and facilitates the recovery of the Coastal coho salmon. Beavers are a key component to restoration of the watersheds and the ecosystem.

Our forest has dedicated tens of thousands of staff hours and have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on aquatic habitat restoration efforts over a 30-year period. Despite these efforts, our ability to restore and conserve these watersheds as resilient strong-holds, including for downstream municipal water supplies, is hampered without beavers. The sustained presence of beavers and their dams depends on having active beaver dams maintained by active beaver colonies. Resiliency of the aquatic ecosystems is critical as we address changes in temperature regimes, weather patterns, and water availability.

Our efforts focus on recovering Coastal coho, supplying municipal water, and ensuring resilient landscapes. We are asking for your assistance in assuring that beaver trapping does not occur on the national forest. We recognize that trapping can occur on private lands. We actively work with and respect our private land neighbors. For example, our stewardship (Wyden Authority) program allows us to work with private land owners and fund projects on private lands that facilitate restoration efforts across all lands. Without a ban on trapping beaver on national forest lands, our efforts are stymied. Please consider this ban and assist us in optimizing the use of our funds (both federal and State), supporting aquatic restoration efforts, and ensuring the good work we have done continues into the future.



Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

ROBERT SANCHEZ
Forest Supervisor

cc: Tere O'Rourke