

HB 3118

April 3, 2019

For the record, my name is Steve Hagan. I am the Northwest Director At-Large for Oregon Hunters Association. I am writing in support of HB 3118. While the use of agents of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to harvest cougars in cougar target areas has been a positive additional tool in the toolbox for the agency with regards to cougar management, the limitation on usage to the established cougar target areas has not allowed for the adaptive management called out by the 2017 Oregon Cougar Management Plan in areas that have no established target area nor allow for maintenance to be done on previously established cougar target areas.

As a practical matter, ODFW establishes four cougar target areas for 3-year periods. The cougar target areas are not additive; a new set is established every 3 years. HB 3118 would allow agents to be assigned to previously established cougar target areas in zones where cougar hunting will not cause the zone to go over quota and do maintenance on those previously established cougar target areas, supporting both Objectives 2, 3 and 4 of the management plan. It would also allow for cougar management to occur in areas that would qualify as being a cougar target area if not for the fact that there is a practical limit of four being in place at one time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.