

House Bill 2897

Sponsored by Representatives CATE, LEVY B; Representatives DIEHL, HIEB (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes person to use dogs to hunt or pursue cougars on private property owned by person or with consent of property owner or owners.

Instructs State Fish and Wildlife Commission to assess cougar depredation of livestock, establish threshold for chronic depredation and reduce cougar populations as needed to address chronic depredation.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to cougars; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 498.164.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 498.164 is amended to read:

5 498.164. (1) *[Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section,]* A person may not use
6 bait to attract or take black bears or use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bears or
7 cougars.

8 (2) *[Nothing in]* **Notwithstanding** subsection (1) of this section:

9 (a) *[prohibits the use of bait or one or more dogs by]* Employees or agents of county, state or
10 federal agencies **may use bait to attract or take black bears or use one or more dogs to hunt**
11 **or pursue black bears or cougars** while acting in their official capacities.

12 (3) (b) *[Nothing in subsection (1) of this section prohibits the]* **A person may** use *[of]* bait or
13 dogs *[by persons]* for the taking of black bears or cougars in accordance with the provisions of ORS
14 498.012 relating to taking wildlife that is causing damage.

15 (c) **A person may use one or more dogs to hunt or pursue cougars on private property**
16 **owned by the person or with the written consent of the property owner or owners.**

17 (4) (3) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a Class A misdemeanor
18 and, upon conviction, shall in addition to appropriate criminal penalties have the person's privilege
19 to apply for any hunting license suspended for a period of five years for a first offense and perma-
20 nently suspended for any subsequent offense.

21 (5) (4) For the purposes of this section, "bait" means any material placed for the purpose of
22 attracting or attempting to attract bears.

23 **SECTION 2.** (1) **As used in this section, "livestock" has the meaning given that term in**
24 **ORS 610.150.**

25 (2) **The State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall:**

26 (a) **Assess cougar depredation of livestock, including by considering reports of persons**
27 **whose livestock have been preyed on by cougars.**

28 (b) **Establish a threshold of cougar depredation of livestock that constitutes chronic**
29 **depredation of livestock.**

30 (c) **Reduce cougar populations, including through lethal take of cougars, as needed to**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **address the chronic depredation of livestock.**

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