

Submitter: Keith Baltzor  
On Behalf Of: Self and member of Harney County Natural Resources  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources  
Measure: SB199

The passage of Measure 18 in 1994 marked the beginning of the end for proactive wildlife management in Oregon. Measure 18 disallowed the use of dogs to pursue and take bears and cougars and the use of bait to attract bears. A well intentioned yet grossly uneducated majority was ecstatic with their win. The consequences have been management, or lack there of, based on emotion rather than science and healthy populations of all species across the landscape. It doesn't work and never will. A severe decline of deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, beaver, the list goes on due to the overpopulation of predators has been the result. Just a wild guess on my part but the ever growing number of wolves across the state isn't going to help either. Now animal rights and activist groups have decided they know better than we how coyotes should or shouldn't be taken. They don't like the optics of the derbies. They believe the derbies are immoral and not sportsman like. No need for discussion or debate, they are right you are wrong conversation over. So who do they turn to to make it happen, the Game Commission. Makes me wonder why left leaning groups would seek relief from a commission appointed by left leaning Governors. I think we all know the answer to that one. Problem is the commission does not have the authority to shut down the derbies. That brings us to where we are now. SB 199 if passed would give the commission the authority to make rules not only on the derbies but all issues predator related and beyond. I mean no offense to the members of the commission, but I don't think a small group of individuals, hand picked by past Governors should have such power and authority. Most of you are seen more as a political arms of the Governors office not wildlife managers. Game management using the initiative process didn't work and the commission in its current state won't either. Until the Game Commission positions are filled using a far more inclusive and open process representing the diverse thoughts and wishes of Oregonians across the spectrum , I oppose the commission be granted any new powers. I fully oppose SB199