

Submitter: Matt Phillips
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

Hello, please consider supporting SB769, allowing counties to vote on whether or not to allow in county use of hounds to pursue and hunt cougars. I am a hunter, and I have never killed a cougar. I have seen 4 cougars while hunting, and have many more images from trail cameras. This was not the case many years ago. Talking to neighbors, we all have seen cougars too close to our animals and places our children play.

I would like to state, I do not want to wipe out the cougar population; to the contrary I want a healthy cougar population. I want to have an opportunity to see them. However, I also want to help our struggling mule deer herds. Hunting cougars without the use of hounds has proven to be ineffective as a tool for ODFW. Allowing counties to choose, then allows ODFW to use another tool for management of these species. And please realize that using hounds allows precise removal of animals. If ODFW wants a particular sex removed, that can be regulated. This could not be a free for all killing spree. The same quotas can be in place.

Also, by virtue of pursuit, cougars could be actively encouraged to stay away from populated areas. This can also allow deer to use more of the wild areas near homes, rather than yards.

Thank you,
Matt Phillips