

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

I strongly oppose any legislation to expand trophy hunting of Oregon's cougars with the use of dogs.

In 1994, Oregon voters banned hounding cougars because is unequivocally cruel. It is not considered "sporting" or "fair chase," Hounds also disturb and kill non-target wildlife and trespass onto private land. In 1996, an even larger majority of voters defeated a proposal to overturn Measure 18. It is unethical for legislators to continue to try circumventing the voters in order to cater to a very small special interest group that wants to sic their dogs on cougars.

In addition, Oregon cougar hunting laws are already exceptionally liberal. Only Oregon and Utah allow cougar hunting year round. Oregon ranks fifth in the nation for cougar hunting mortality. ODFW promotes cougar hunting and offers "10 Ways to Be a Better Cougar Hunter" on its website. Hounding would only further exacerbate the constant disruption of cougars' social structure, ultimately leading to more conflicts with people, pets and livestock.*

SB 769 is a bad bill and should die in committee.

*Lambert, C.M.S., et al. (2006); Cooley, H.S., et al. (2009); Peebles, K.A., et.al. (2013) and Teichman et.al. (2016)