

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

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to support the passing of SB769. The state of Oregon's wildlife management agencies are charged with the ethical and responsible management of the wildlife that calls Oregon home. The passing of this bill would allow a closely controlled expansion of the laws around the pursuit/harvest of Mountain Lions. Mountain Lions just like every other species of wildlife need to be managed for both their own, and all wildlife's benefit. A hound season can be the most ethical way to kill the appropriate target animal in that area, it is the only form of catch and release hunting. A houndsman has the opportunity to see the exact size, age, and breeding status of the treed or bayed animal and then decide if it would be the ideal individual to choose to kill (for example a large male that has had time to genetically diversify the population vs a female with young who could be released unharmed. This would also help to ease the burden of the state or federal agency having to be the sole responder to incidents such as depredations, lions in populated areas, etc. This would also provide a boost in revenue that some of these rural counties so desperately rely on. Hunters buy fuel and food at local establishments, their hunting license and tag sales help to provide monetary support that benefits other Oregon wildlife species. This would be an unprecedented action if passed that would benefit every part of the wildlife spectrum from the management agencies in charge, the counties that allow it, out of state hunters, locals, businesses, etc. There is no better management milestone than having a robust population of a species that can support ethical management and harvest. Oregon is far past that point and it's time to reverse a law that was brought about by emotions and go back to managing wildlife with science and facts.