

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

Since 2018 I have lost 3 goats to mountain lions. I killed the first mountain lion with approval of OSP and ODFW. The second goat killed by a mountain lion was in 2020, which I was unable to eliminate. In 2022, another one of my goats was killed by a mountain lion. Again with the permission of OSP and ODFW, I killed the mountain lion when it returned to fee on the carcass.

I live only 3 miles out of town with houses surrounding my 2 acre lot. The over population of mountain lions is forcing them to expand their territory. In addition, the decreased number of ungulates to feed on, as the result of increased mountain lion population and kills, forces them to seek out other food sources like livestock.

I've been an avid hunter in Lane County for 35 years. I have seen a steady decline in game animals over the years since hound hunting mountain lions was outlawed. Correlating with that is the number of mountain lion sightings and encounters I've had in recent years compared to my past when hound hunting was legal. I have personally called in three different mountain lions in the last five years with cow elk calls, while archery hunting elk. These predators are wreaking havoc on the elk and deer populations, which is evident in the number of mountain lion kills I've personally found in the forest while hunting and decreased elk and deer seen in the area.

To regain balance of ungulates and predators in Oregon, it is crucial to allow hound hunting for mountain lions. It is also important to minimize the number of livestock that are being killed. I fully support the legalizing of hound hunting mountain lions in all counties in Oregon, particularly Lane County. The future of hunting in our state relies on the legalization of hound hunting to bring down the mountain lion population. If the success rates for hunting do not improve in our state, hunters will be forced to go out of state to fill their freezers.