

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

To Whom It May Concern,

This testimony is to respectfully urge you to research and consider the potential negative effects of SB 769, as well as the prior voter approval of Ballot Measure 18 which, as you know, banned the hunting of cougars in Oregon. Hunting cougars with dogs and guns gives a clear unfair advantage to the hunter.

In addition, scientific research shows that hunting cougars with dogs will not make people, pets or farm animals safer or increase populations of other animals such as deer and elk. Decreasing the cougar population and the rodent population is very likely to flourish (which is surely not something that would prove disagreeable to the folks who are promoting this bill). This has been demonstrated and proven time and time again.

For example:

<https://www.yellowstone.org/wolf-project/>

"Importance of the study: The Yellowstone Wolf Project serves as a model for wolf conservation efforts worldwide, providing valuable insights into... the role of apex predators in maintaining healthy ecosystems. "

Cougars are undeniably an important part of Oregon's ecosystem. I have lived on rural AF-20 acreage with livestock and a portion of the land forested. Over the 40+ years here, we have witnessed the natural ebb and flow of wildlife as well as the effects of encroaching development into what once was essential woodland and pastures for a wide variety of wildlife. It is up to us to be stewards of these innocent beings.

Thank you for your time.

Kindly,
Karen Batcheller