

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

Respectfully ask for YES votes in SUPPORT of SB 769

I would just like to show some corrections on false information I noticed.

1) Oregon, Utah, Nevada and New Mexico Cougar seasons are Year around or until the quota is filled(which many the quota's are rarely filled). Idaho and Arizona has a 10 month cougar season.

2) Nevada has year around hound hunting, you can hunt day and night and you can get two tags and has been for some years now. They average just 23 cougars killed a year for livestock depredation. That is a state with 85% Federal Land with a lot of it used for livestock grazing. That right there would shoot down any claims that hound hunting creates problem cats. That is with an estimated cougar population of about 2200 cats and an average of about 250 harvested each year. Whereas Oregon with no public hound hunting since 1994 is killing problem cats at numbers of 150 to almost 200 a year. Nevada with year around hound hunting of cougars 23 cougars killed for livestock depredations. Oregon with no public hound hunting 150-200 problem cats killed a year.

3) Measure 18 did not stop hound hunting in Oregon. Cougars are still hunted and killed using dogs, the only change was that now instead of Oregon's tax paying public spending their money in communities that need that income in the winter, we are paying probably close to \$900,000 a year for government hunters to do the job for us, that is a guess on the amount and what I saw that Nevada spends. Couldn't find what Oregon spends for government hunters.

4) Oregon has already one human fatality because of a cougar attack! And many close calls from cougar human interactions. Washington with no public hound hunting of cougars also had a human fatality plus many close calls as well. Nevada has none! If hound hunting cougars again saves one human life then that would certainly be worth it. Especially if it was someone you knew. Here is an excerpt describing how they found the woman that died from a cougar attack in Oregon -
"They believe that Bober first spotted the cougar from the trail. When it continued approaching her, she moved out of its way and into the woods. But it followed her. She hung her rain jacket on a tree to make herself look larger. She took off her backpack, and threw the items in it at the cougar, one at a time, backing away slowly. But the cat was undeterred. When Bober's body was found, there was evidence she had been dragged to the bottom of a ravine. She was holding a sharp stick across

her chest that she'd used to fight back.”

I remember seeing a news story of a Mt. Lion found in a motel room being remodeled in The Dallas. Several more of cougars squaring off with people on the trails around the State. I also just heard that the government hunter had taken 6 cats out of the city of Joseph but was not able to confirm that yet.

5) Hunting cougars with dogs gives you a chance to see if the cougar is male or a female that may be nursing kittens. Thereby saving a female nursing kittens from being harvested. Rather than how it is done now is - “there’s a cougar, shoot it!” And again, the government hunter is under no restrictions on what he takes like public hunters would be very regulated.

6) I recall Oregon voters voting Twice to not issue drivers licenses to undocumented people. Yet now they do.

Some good information below for you as well.

Thank you for your consideration on this.

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/cougar/docs/Summary_of_Cougar_Research_in_Oregon_March2015.pdf

<https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2019/06/thats-an-animal-that-had-no-fear-of-humans-cougar-sightings-on-the-rise-in-oregon.html>