

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

Dear Senate Committee Members:

Twice Oregonians have voted to oppose trophy hunting of cougars, including hunting with hounds. The current law already allows an exception for the use of hounds to address issues with individual cougars who threaten property or public safety. The cruel unsporting hounding methods is not sound wildlife management or in the best interest of Oregon's cougar population. The current exemption has been successful in removing individual cougars involved in conflicts with humans, pets and livestock. Oregon ocurently allows excessive trophy hunting of cougars and ranks fifth highest nationwide for hunting mortality of cougars. Oregon is one of a few states that allow year-round hunting of cougars, even when kittens are likely dependent on their mothers, Cougar kittens are frequently mauled and killed by dog packs used by hunters. The excessive killing of the mature cougars breakdown their social structure and inate hunting experience of the kittens creating conflicts with livestock, people and pets. From 2008 to 2017 Oregon trophy hunters killed 2,600 cougars. They are trophies for a wall or floor not being used for food and possibly killed its kittens.

Every legislative session we see a flurry of these type of bills being introduced either repealing Measure 18 or amending it in various ways. This year by allowing counties to opt out of Measure 18. It reminds me if five year olds harrassing their parents until they get their way. Just say NO, the majority of Oregonians have spoken twice.

I saw on the list of people wanting to testify someone is there to testify On The Behalf of All Oregon Outdoor Enthusiasts. No one speaks for all Oregon Outdoor Enthusiasts especially when they are supporting SB 769. The arrogance.