

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

Chair Golden, Co-Chair Nash, Committee Members :

Oregonians have twice rejected by voter initiative the use of hounds for recreational hunting of cougars. A 2019 survey found 65% of Oregon residents rejected trophy hunting of cougars.

GPS-collared dogs do most of the work in these lazy, unethical hunts. Cougars are pursued by packs of dogs while the hunter hangs back at his ease until GPS location shows the dogs have treed the cat. Fair chase this is not.

Once a cougar is treed, the hunter goes to the location and shoots the animal point blank with a high-powered scoped rifle. The victim tumbles down, and the hunter has his trophy and bragging rights to his prowess. This is as unsportsmanlike as canned hunts in Texas.

In some states, outfitters set these hunts in motion without the client being involved. He's notified once a cougar is treed, conveyed to the spot, and makes his kill. There's no reason this wouldn't happen in Oregon under SB 769.

Existing law allows the use of hounds to hunt problem cougars or for wildlife management.

SB 769 would benefit only the small number of Oregon hunters who lack the skill and tenacity to hunt normally, without dogs, and those commercial guides who would conduct hunts for trophy hunters, including those from out of state.

Most Oregonians don't want this activity in their state.

Please adhere to the will of the people and reject SB 769.

Than you.