

Submitter: Kit Collins  
On Behalf Of: Out To Pasture Animal Sanctuary  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

Please respect the will of the voters and oppose SB 769.

Oregon voters do not support the cruel and unsportsmanlike practice of hunting cougars with radio collared hounds. They have twice shown this at the ballot box.

This is not a county issue, especially considering that cougars are territorial and do not observe county boundaries. When a mature cougar is killed, younger, less experienced ones move in with more of a potential to cause conflict.

State and federal wildlife officials already deal with problem cougars, not vigilante cougar hunters with hounds.

Also consider that the current level of cougar kills by trophy hunters in Oregon is already unsustainable for the cougar population.

Hunting cougars with hounds is about as sportsmanlike as shooting fish in a barrel. It involves using a pack of far-ranging, radio-collared dogs to chase a luckless cougar for miles until finally, exhausted and scared, it instinctively seeks safety up a tree. Later (sometimes days), a "sportsman" will arrive at the scene and shoot the terrified animal until it falls out of the tree.

Hunters with dogs trespass on private property in pursuit of the cougars.

In closing, legislation to expand trophy hunting of Oregon's cougars, including with the use of hounds, is cruel and unnecessary. Research shows that indiscriminately killing large numbers of cougars increases the potential for more human, pet and livestock conflicts.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Kit Collins