

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

Voters have already voted to ban this practice. Please respect the will of the voters on this measure which already said (back in 1996, I remember this ballot measure myself as a teenager here in Oregon at the time who was still under 18 and therefore unable to vote on it) that the majority of Oregonians are AGAINST this type of cougar hunting. The big cats were here before us, and we shouldn't be continuing this type of barbaric practice. California has a similar amount of land area, 10x as many humans, and probably quite a bit more livestock than Oregon. All types of recreational mountain lion hunting (involving dogs or otherwise) has been banned in California for decades. Yet, California has FEWER conflicts between cougars vs humans/livestock/pets. The basic idea of aggressively killing the mountain lions is for the purposes of reducing human-vs-cougar conflicts is based upon outdated science. The differences between California's and Oregon's cougar policies is evidence of this. California uses better/newer science where we know that killing the cougars creates "social chaos" amongst the big cats' population. Its an embarrassment that California is thinking in terms of more advanced 21st century science while Oregon is still stuck using old 20th century science, or perhaps even using 19th century science. Let's learn a lesson from our neighbors to the south-- the 42nd parallel shouldn't be this arbitrary invisible barrier in which there's such a significantly stark difference in terms in cougar policies. This bill will only make the contrast between the two sides of the state line (42nd parallel) even starker.