

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

I am in full support of this bill. Allowing counties to manage the population of these predators with dogs is the best option possible. Not once has ODFW had to shut down a cougar season because the quota had been met, meaning traditional calling/spot and stalk methods aren't affective. Allowing individual counties the ability to manage cougars with dogs will only lead to positive outcomes. Not only will the cougar population be brought under control, but there no doubt be an increase in deer/elk numbers in counties that choose to allow it (look at the cougar reduction done in Morrow county with dogs a number of years ago, and the increase in fawn survival and overall deer numbers as proof). Using dogs is a very effective tool in making sure the cougars that are harvested are mature Tom lions. A few years ago I had to opportunity to harvest a cougar while archery hunting. It happened very quickly and I harvested a small female cougar. If this cougar had been treed while hunting cougars with a dog, she would not of been harvested, as hunters prefer to take the larger male lions. The scenario I was given happens allot, meaning the smaller immature cougars are often harvested. Dogs allow hunters to be picky about which animals are harvested, ensuring a healthy population for years to come. It's time issues like this that affect a region of the state (Eastern Oregon) are allowed to be handled by people who live in Eastern Oregon, not by people in the big cities.