

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

I was born and raised here in Gold Beach, Oregon and am an avid outdoorsman. From hunting to fishing and picking mushrooms, you name it. I have spent countless hours in the woods, and I have had more than four cougar encounters in my life. All within the last few years too.

I've seen these cats become more and more bold as time goes on and their population increases while their prey populations drop. I have also watched our deer and elk populations dwindle. Humans are the only thing to keep these animals numbers in check. And I want to express that I am a firm believer in everything has a place and a purpose and that goes for cougars too. But their numbers are out of control in terms of a healthy ecosystem balance.

I think that hound hunting a great opportunity to help manage these animals to a more healthy population level. And hound hunting is not an easy accomplishment as it is. So every successful hound hunt on a cougar is going to be a step in the right direction. Our prey animals will have a chance to reach sustainable healthy numbers with cougars being managed more efficiently.

A single cougar needs to kill about once a week to sustain itself, which means a single cougar is killing roughly 50 times a year. These cats are very good at what they do and when they can't find their regular prey, they aren't going to just stop eating; they're going to look for other things to eat.

It isn't a hard to see that cougars have gotten to overpopulation and it is time for us as the residents to help put them back into check. I hope to see this measure go through and plan to support it fully to help restore balance to our ecosystem.