

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

It is Deja vu all over again as the citizens of Oregon must oppose another attempt by hound hunters to reverse the ban on hound hunting of cougars that was passed as Measure 18 twice in the 1990s! What is it that these hounds men cannot understand "No " to reversal of the ban county by county.

Our Cougars are apex predators needed to complete and balance out our ecosystem. There is NOT an over abundance of cougars in Oregon at an estimated 3000 adults . Do not start quoting the number as 6000+ as most hunters and hounds men are so quick to spout out as a warning of supposed "overpopulation". Please read page 52 of the updated Oregon Cougar Plan, which clearly states that there are about 6000...which includes adults AND KITTENS. NO state but Oregon counts both adults and kittens due to the high mortality rate of kittens . These facts can be found in the research of Rob Wielgus PhD, past director of the Large Carnivore Lab at WSU , who studied cougars for 30 yrs. and John Landré PhD.

Their research also revealed that if cougars are indiscriminately hunted, that this void will result in younger "teenager " cougars coming into the territory . These young cougars do not have the capacity or experience to hunt efficiently. Thus they will attempt to hunt the low hanging fruit...which maybe livestock or your pets.

Please listen to the majority of citizens again and finally tell these hound hunters that we do not want them to use their hounds to tree cougars and then kill them for no other reason than a trophy hunt. This is far from a fair chase or ethical hunt. I believe it is animal abuse , especially since these hounds people can use GPS collars on their dogs, turning them loose , while they chase the cougar to exhaustion as the " hunter" waits in his vehicle until he can tell that the hounds have treed the cougar .