

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

The argument for allowing dogs for hunting cougars in Oregon, as counties deem necessary is centered on the following:

1. Allowing dogs helps hunters track and safely locate cougars, which can pose a threat to human populations and livestock, especially in rural or forested areas. It may offer a safer, more effective means of controlling the cougar population.

2 They help maintain healthy wildlife populations by regulating predator numbers.

3 Using dogs in cougar hunting has historical roots and is an established practice in other states. Advocates argue it supports the preservation of traditional hunting methods and promotes local economies.

4. Allowing individual counties to decide whether or not to allow dog hunting for cougars gives local communities the autonomy to address specific regional needs and concerns, such as urban encroachment or agricultural losses. Some livestock are more susceptible to predators than others. Sheep being one of them.

5. Dogs can make hunting more precise, ensuring that cougar populations are managed responsibly and in line with wildlife conservation goals. The method can help prevent unregulated, unsustainable hunting practices.

In sum, proponents argue that giving counties the flexibility to use dogs for cougar hunting is a pragmatic and balanced approach to ensure safety, ecological stability, and responsible wildlife management.

Life long Oregon Resident. I am born and raised in Oregon. Avid hunter and outdoorsman. 15 years law enforcement professional.

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