

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

I have grown up in the woods not only as a hunter but as a person of great interest to wildlife and management for the outdoors. Weather that be the animals or the process of how we take care of our natural habitat. A very big issue in wallowa county is the number of depleting deer and elk numbers seen in the last 20+ years. I do alot of predator hunting as well and I can say I truthfully see more sign of predators such as lions, wolf, bear, coyotes, bobcats ect. then I do sign of deer and elk anymore. The management of some of these predators with hounds like cougar and bear would be a great help to our wildlife. There are no people i have visited with in this county or others for that fact that would not like to see somthing done to help replenish our deer and elk populations. I know that when hounds were used before in wallowa county and adjacent countys the deer and elk were doing much better then today. With deer reaching there full maturity and elk calf numbers much higher with a better cow to bull ratio. I have been raised around the fur trade also and ran hounds since I was old enough to ride along with my dad. It is not an easy sport to hunt with hounds. It takes years and countless hours of training dogs to even realize how to catch a lion or bear. But if the time is put in they can be a very affective tool in the field. So please take into consideration just cause you have a hound does not mean you will catch every bear or lion. But those who put in the time could help greatly on our issue of the over abundant amount of cougars and bears. Thanks for taking the time to read and hope we can help to manage the problem we have. Thanks