

Submitter: G.M. Whiting
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

Most of my outdoor time, because of home location and because I don't do 'vacations', is around mule deer and in their habitat and as a result, in cougar habitat. 25 years. Cougars are not the problem for mule deer. People are the problem. More people, too many people, too many houses, too much loss and blocking of winter habitat, old natural wildlife corridors, and water access, from added houses, especially vacation rentals, in foolish locations. 25% of Wallowa County is now vacation rentals and no one says a word. Also, no one says a word about population. We hit 4 billion in 1974. That took 100,000 years. We hit 8 billion in 2022. That additional 4 billion took 48 years. Almost all bad news these days connects to that, too many people, too fed up with each other, destroying things around them. Fish and Wildlife declines shouldn't be blamed on any other creature than the one we see in the mirror. Cougars are also not a 'human safety issue', that's absurd, look through Oregon history back to 1859. Ticks and hornets are much more dangerous, so is lightning. God made all animals including cougars, with intention, and He cares for them and may in fact be starting to get tired of us. They don't deserve to be treed with dogs and shot, when they serve as nature's shyest predator. This is misplaced fear. If you can move through life without fear, also without greed, you've figured most of it out. If you want to hunt them, the law already lets you hunt them like a man, entirely with your own capabilities. I'm not remotely pacifist, I'm a veteran and have many guns. Frankly I'd be less opposed to a proposed hunting season on poachers than to this new bill on cougars, who I admire as nature's hermits. This is wrong, I oppose. Thank you sir.