



February 11, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife

OPPOSE SB 769

Above is a picture of 4 of the 7 reasons why I OPPOSE SB 769

From November 2022 thru February of 2023 “Corey” as I came to hear his name, was “guarding” equipment belonging to one of the USFS contractors working on the commercial timber sale included in the Willoughby Urban Interface Protection Project in the Umatilla National Forest.

I found Corey and his six hounds RUNNING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY adjacent to the 1.4 million acres of public land on the Umatilla National Forest. I asked him if 1.4 million acres of public land was not enough. As he gathered his hounds, which had been running elk down – not thieves or bobcats – he said he didn’t want any trouble. Why were his hounds’ running elk on private land? Because he’d run them off public. But why elk? Because he has 6 hounds to feed. Any idea what those costs are in manufactured dog food these days?

Remember the thing about the head bone is connected to the neck bone, that’s connected to the shoulder bone....?

Hunting and human activity on national forest public land is connected to the outmigration of big games species like elk. Elk go where they are not bothered and there is a ready food source. The predators follow and eat what they can find. The humans whose wheat and sheep are being consumed get angry and send men with guns to shoot the elk and predators, that fled the men with hounds and guns in their habitat, to find food where they could and ate the farmer’s wheat and got chased by men on ATVs with guns who shot and killed them en masse. Currently, there is year-round hunting of cougar in Oregon. Year round shooting of coyote. There is a hunt every day of the year in Oregon. That we have any wildlife at all is truly amazing. With the exponential increase in motorized recreational activity on public lands, including wildlife habitat, along with grazing by domestic livestock, the competition for food and space is overwhelming our native species.

We, the People of the state of Oregon have already spoken on this issue passing Measure 18 in 1994. We the People of the state of Oregon value our inherent natural environments and the wildlife and other life forms who inhabit them.

Diversity: it’s co-existence or no-existence. Let’s Keep OREGON OREGON

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Eastern Oregon Resident