

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

Oregonians greatly appreciate the wildlife of their state, and as a city dweller I'm even more appreciative of the rural areas I cherish that are home to most of Oregon's wildlife. I recognize that science-based management is based on population and land dynamics that are unique to local and regional parts of this state. Our wildlife managers need as many tools and possible to help manage all wildlife, and hound hunting can be a very effective tool that can help manage our mountain lion population is that far out of balance in many parts of the state. A specific wildlife related bill does not have to set a precedent for how our counties react to all legislation, as it's a specific potential fix to a very real wildlife emergency that is the declining mule deer populations across the state. I can sympathize with the perceived cruelty of the method, but that doesn't make think there is no place for it in wildlife management for others to do. This method is effective and efficient, and I can guarantee is far less cruel than the manner in which a mountain lion kills at least one deer a week. With 6-7,000 mountain lions in the state, consider the volume of impact this population has. I want there to be mountain lions on the landscape, but I also want there to be other species as well. Oregon is not a national park, and we must manage all species so that they can thrive along with us humans. Let's give wildlife managers more tools, allow more local level choice, and ensure that all wildlife populations thrive. Voters should have a say in wildlife management, but that's what our ODFW commission is for, molded by our elected representatives. I hope that us city dwellers don't close our eyes and ears to the realities of life in the rural and allow more nuance and choice where it impacts those folks most directly.