

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

I can't believe the legislature is actually considering turning over wildlife management from the state to individual counties. It is a horrible precedent and a slippery slope. While I understand the concern ranchers may have for their livestock, the desire of hunters to get an opportunity to go trophy hunting with dogs leading the way is absolutely the wrong reason for this proposal. Cougars are a natural and valuable part of the ecosystem and the small amount of predation that may occur on livestock is part of doing business and could be compensated by government if it seems to be that big of a problem along with targeting problem animals just like is done with wolves. However such decisions should be made by ODFW, not simply creating open season with dogs as counties might propose. This idea is not management, but simply catering to trophy hunters looking for another head on the wall.