

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

I highly support this movement. As a working member of a family cattle/timber ranch that encompasses 3000 acres of coos county I have personally seen the impact the cougar population has had since the ban of hounds in 94. From the increasing number of livestock lost and wildlife carcasses found to the mere fraction of deer we have compared to pre ban. Anyone with any knowledge knows that it's merely impossible/luck to kill cougar without hounds. The states population is out of control and the paying members of OR are suffering because of it. Hunters throughout the state, which also compiles most ranchers, provide our state with millions of dollars to manage our wildlife ecosystem and it's never been worse than today. Between the record number of predators and the over allotment of tags(for more money) the state has failed us!! This will not change until the state does what we pay it to do....their job!! It's time we let the people and areas directly affected by this make the choice. Managing our cougar/predator population is a win/win for the state of OR. Less livestock loss for ranchers means more money available to be spent and go back into our economy and better hunting opportunities will attract more people from future generations. All which leads to more revenue for the state. For these reasons I highly support this bill to better the state of OR