

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

Hi, my name is Keith Wolford.
I'm from La Grande, Oregon.
I'm a hunter and a concerned citizen.

I urge you to approve senet bill 769. Oregon has the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), specifically to manage wildlife. The agency has biologists that use science to manage wildlife. Wildlife management should be left to the biologists and the department that Oregonians pay for such management.

In 1994 when measure 18 was passed the ability to manage Mountain Lion populations was taken away from the ODFW and put into the hands of the general public. The general public should not be managing wildlife in Oregon.

In 1994 ODFW reports that the estimated Mountain Lion population in Oregon was about 3000, and at the objective level. ODFW estimates the population to be over 7,000 today. That's double the objective goal.

Each year, there are many cases where Mountain Lions cause damage to livestock, pets and are a safety concern for humans. ODFW has to hire a government trapper to euthanize the lion each time that this happens. The trapper uses hounds to aid in doing so. ODFW reports that between 1987 to 1993 the average number of these Lion conflicts was 21 per year and that between 1994 and 2016 the average number of lion conflicts was 131 per year. The number of these conflicts was on an upward trend and can only be assumed that it has continued that way.

Senet bill 769 would allow ODFW to manage Mountain Lion populations much more effectively in Oregon. Please approve Senet bill. 769.

Thank you for your time.