

Submitter: linda holing
On Behalf Of:
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Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

As an apex predator, cougars are critical to maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem. By leaving a significant portion of the carcasses of their prey, mountain lions also help feed and support species of birds and mammals.

Studies show that trophy hunting of cougars exacerbate conflicts with humans, pets and livestock because when adult cats are removed – particularly resident adult males – younger, less experienced cats move into those vacancies, and they are the individuals most likely to engage in livestock predation.

Oregonians should not be beholden to the hunting lobby and the meat industry's ranchers. Now it's time for these corrupt special interests to be forced by the vast majority of Oregon's citizens to accept that these beautiful big cats deserve to be respected—to live their lives free and wild, not blasted out of a tree.