

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

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I am writing in support of SB769.
The unchecked cougar population has a huge impact on wildlife and the rural communities.

Oregons cougar population is over the management objective by more than double (management plan of 3000 and current of >7000).
SB769 would provide proactive management to help our deer, elk and bighorn sheep herds to recover and will also help to protect livestock.
Livestock are of vital economic importance to Oregons economy.
Cougar are extremely hard to control without the use of hounds.

Cougar kill on average of one deer or elk per week.
Given the overpopulation of roughly 4000 cougars, that is over 200,000 kills in a year.
This along with other predictors makes deer population recover very difficult.

Thank you
Sincerely
Steve and Kristi Rickman