# House Bill 3428

Sponsored by Representative SPRENGER; Representatives BENTZ, CONGER, ESQUIVEL, FREEMAN, GARRARD, HUFFMAN, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, KRIEGER, MCLANE, OLSON, G SMITH, THOMPSON, WEIDNER, Senator GIROD

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Directs State Department of Fish and Wildlife to create pilot program that allows persons hunting or pursuing cougars to use dogs. Directs department to report to 2015 Legislative Assembly. Sunsets program January 2, 2016.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to cougars; and providing for criminal sentence reduction that requires approval by a two-thirds majority.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding ORS 498.164, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall create a pilot program allowing persons to use dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal pursuit of cougars. The department shall designate game management areas of the following counties as areas in which the use of dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal pursuit of cougars is allowed:**

**(a) Umatilla, Wallowa, Union, Baker, Grant, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson, Linn and Marion; and**

**(b) Any county not specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection that, on or after June 30, 2014, adopts a resolution requesting inclusion in the pilot program.**

**(2) The pilot program shall allow for separate hunting and nonlethal pursuit seasons in each area managed by the department.**

**(3) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may adopt rules to implement the pilot program described in this section. Rules adopted by the commission to implement the pilot program shall:**

**(a) Be designed to protect public safety, property and game mammals;**

**(b) Be designed to generate data that is necessary for the department to develop the report required by section 2 of this 2011 Act;**

**(c) Reflect the current and future predictions of cougar populations;**

**(d) Reflect the current and future predictions of game mammal populations and rates of taking of game mammals by licensed hunters; and**

**(e) Be designed to ensure that the number of cougars prescribed for taking under ORS 496.162 is met.**

**(4) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission may not limit the number of cougar tags issued or the number of persons who may utilize dogs under the pilot program, however, the commission may limit the number of cougars that may be taken in order to ensure that the wildlife policy objectives of ORS 496.012 are met.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

LC 1342

1    SECTION 2. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall report to the 2015 Legisla-
2    tive Assembly by February 2, 2015, on the pilot program conducted pursuant to section 1 of
3    this 2011 Act. The report shall contain:

4    (1) Information on the efficacy of the pilot program on cougar population management
5    and a recommendation on whether the pilot program should be made permanent or be ex-
6    tended. The department may provide this information on a statewide, regional or county by
7    county basis.

8    (2) A summary of the population data collected during the pilot program.

9    (3) A recommendation for the development of a comprehensive and effective reporting
10   system for people to report encounters with and sightings of cougars, bears and wolves.

11   (4) A recommendation for a cougar population management system that focuses on con-
12   trolling the population level.

13   (5) Identification of nonlethal means that would decrease encounters between humans
14   and cougars.

15   (6) A summary of deer and elk population status during the pilot program in comparison
16   with the 10 years prior to the implementation of the pilot program.

17   (7) A summary of any relevant elk predation or nutrition research conducted by the de-
18   partment.

19   SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2011 Act are repealed on January 2, 2016.

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