

**TO: HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE**

**FROM: SCOTT BECKSTEAD, OREGON DIRECTOR, THE HUMANE  
SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES**

**DATE: APRIL 2, 2013**

**RE: HB 2624 AND HB 3395**

**ODFW COUGAR MORTALITY: A COMPARISON  
(MEASURE 18 WAS PASSED IN 1994)**

	<b><u>1993</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>
Cougar Complaints:	276	287
Cougar tags sold:	560	50,889
Cougars killed by hunters:	160	242
Total cougar mortality:	208	495

- Cougar complaints are **down by nearly half** from the previous five years
- Hunters are killing up to **nearly twice as many** cougars since Measure 18 was passed
- Nearly **100 times** more cougar tags sold in 2012 than 1993
- ODFW mortality does NOT include **poaching** and **unreported killing**
- Media reports of alleged cougar encounters appear to **coincide** with pending legislative action

Trends in cougar (mountain lion) complaints, damage, harvest, and other mortality in Oregon during 1992–2012. Complaint and mortality data are current through 22 January 2013 and 11 January 2013, respectively, based on check-in of cougars. Numbers may change as late data are added.

Year	Number of Complaints <sup>a</sup>	Number of Tags Sold <sup>b</sup>	Number of Mortalities by Source					Total
			Hunter-Harvest	Damage <sup>c</sup>	Human Safety <sup>d</sup>	Administrative Removals <sup>e</sup>	Other <sup>f</sup>	
1992	184	517	187	17	3	0	22	229
1993	276	560	160	21	6	0	21	208
1994	554	588	144	30	9	0	21	204
1995	742	385	34	41	22	0	12	109
1996	840	779	45	66	32	0	25	168
1997	798	935	61	82	20	0	18	181
1998	954	11,761	153	93	20	0	17	283
1999	1,072	14,564	157	91	39	0	25	312
2000 <sup>g</sup>	942	22,386	136	120	25	0	19	300
2001	829	28,447	220	97	25	0	23	365
2002	765	32,126	232	111	23	0	37	403
2003	697	34,135	248	111	28	0	25	412
2004	545	34,071	265	95	28	0	35	423
2005	622	38,079	224	125	28	0	30	407
2006	451	38,719	289	106	26	0	32	453
2007	453	41,813	309	114	21	52	41	537
2008	518	43,211	273	109	23	34	54	492
2009	437	45,375	274	110	31	21	37	473
2010	469	48,776	239	99	25	79	39	481
2011	500	50,889	241	139	23	71	32	506
2012	287		242	119	40	55	39	495

<sup>a</sup>Number of complaints received during the calendar year. Sightings not associated with damage or public safety concerns are not included.

<sup>b</sup>Includes general and additional tags (including Sports Pac licenses).

<sup>c</sup>Number of animals killed as a result of damage during a calendar year.

<sup>d</sup>Animals killed as a result of real or perceived threat to humans or pets.

<sup>e</sup>Administrative removals on cougar target areas (2007–present only).

<sup>f</sup>Includes roadkill, accidental, found dead, and illegal kill.

<sup>g</sup>Hunting season changed to calendar year.