



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office of the Director
3406 Cherry Ave NE
Salem, OR 97303-4924
503.947.6044
Fax 503.947.6042
www.dfw.state.or.us

Date: February 26, 2013

To: The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee



**Testimony by
Curt Melcher, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Testimony on House Bill 2390**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife offers the following comments on House Bill 2390.

In 1994, Oregonians passed Ballot Measure 18, which prohibits the use of dogs for hunting of cougars and black bears. Measure 18 provided exceptions for the use of dogs by the department and agents, but the statute did not clearly grant the department authority to designate agents. To clarify the issue, the 2007 Oregon Legislature amended the statute to explicitly provide the department the authority to appoint agents to use dogs to hunt or pursue black bear and cougar to assist the department with wildlife management activities.

House Bill 2390 would repeal the sunset date of January 2, 2014 contained in the 2007 bill. This will allow the department to continue to appoint agents to assist with carrying out the provisions of the 2006 Oregon Cougar Management Plan and the Oregon Black Bear Management Plan.

Since 2007 the department has appointed 27 individuals as agents. These agents have played important roles assisting with cougar research projects and implementing the department's cougar target area programs which are designed to reduce conflicts between cougars and humans or livestock and to improve deer fawn and elk calf survival. In many areas of the state, utilizing agents with dogs is the most expedient way to address conflicts caused by bear or cougar.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide the Committee with these comments.

CONTACTS

Curt Melcher, Deputy Director, (503) 947-6037
Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator, (503) 947-6312

