

Catherine Koehn
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2/25/13

Re: HB 2624 & 2390 & 3395 &
SB 428

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask that you please **do not support any of the three House bills that purport to start killing Cougars with packs of hounds.** These bills are not necessary, inhumane and worse...will go directly against the will of Oregon Voters who TWICE told you that we will NOT accept such cruel, arcane and unsporting methods of killing cougars.

But, the chief reason you should not even consider any of these frivolous bills is that you will be CREATING a Public Safety THREAT to citizens! Here's how: these Houndmen want Trophies, that's why they are doing it. And they don't want small trophies, they try to kill the big old Tom cat, and what their hunting does is DESTABLIZE THE BALANCE OF THAT DRAINAGE, because now that the large cat is gone, what happens is YOUNG, TRANSIENT COUGARS are naturally drawn into that area to take over the 3 or 4 females that the old cat had in his territory. It is these young 'transients' that cause a lot of trouble, because they don't know the territory and it is these animals that will be coming down into town and eating people's pets! It's a proven fact - most 'problem cats' are young cats without a home range.

So, the bottomline is: if you let those houndmen loose in the woods again, **YOU WILL BE CREATING A PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD** that encourages a flood of young, inexperienced cougars down around people!

The other major factor you must consider is that Houndmen only hunt two things with those dogs: Cougars and Bears. And Bears populations world-wide are under threat! So much so that the CITIES TREATY on international POACHING lists Bears as a Category 2 species that needs protection - NOT HUNTING with packs of dogs! Don't fly in the face of international law & treaties by killing more bears!

Are you aware of **the POACHING EPIDEMIC IN THE NW?** The houndmen are notoriously non law abiding! Several of their leaders (ie Johnny Young and Ray HILLSMAN) have been caught and found guilty of slaughtering dozens of animals illegally! And they want to kill the bears, because the Chinese will pay \$500 a Bear Gaul Bladder!!! It's an **INTERNATIONAL BLACK MARKET IN BEAR PARTS!**

Moreover, none of these bills is necessary- Meaure 18 is working fine!
- there has NEVER BEEN ANYONE ATTACKED IN OREGON BY A COUGAR - ever.

And you know that the people who are pushing these 'same old bills as last time' are the ones who have relentlessly tried and tried for 20 years to get such bogus bills passed for personal profit and gain!

They are WASTING THE LEGISLATURES valuable time AGAIN! They don't seem to 'get it' and they never win because legislators don't want to affront the will of Voters! So, - Don't fall for it this time either:

Please do NOT invite WIDE OPEN POACHING TO OREGON, like these bills would

Please do NOT create a direct PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT, like these bills would

Please do NOT PASS ANY OF THESE FRIVOLOUS AFRONTS TO OUR LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM!

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HB 2624, HB 2390, HB 3395, SB 428

IT IS A FAILED PLAN WITH FAILED POLICIES.

- THESE BILLS ARE DEPENDENT UPON GOOD DATA, AND IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY WORLD-WIDE PEERS, SCIENTISTS, BIOLOGISTS, JANE GOODALL, THE SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE AND OTHERS, THAT THE OREGON COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN IS A BROKEN AND FLAWED SYSTEM INCAPABLE OF GOOD DATA AND IS LACKING A SOUND SCIENTIFIC BACKING.

THE NEGATIVE EXTERNALITIES OF THESE BILLS ARE:

- **POACHING**, all FOUR bills support poaching.
 - Washington cougar meat and organs are sold on an out-of-control black market of wildlife parts according to Washington Fish and Wildlife and investigative reporters.
 - California has a 100 million dollar annual black market of wildlife parts according to California Fish and Game.
 - Oregon has more wildlife poached than legally killed, according to Oregon State Police reports.
- **COUGAR POPULATION DATA IS INACCURATE.** IT IS NOT "REFLECTIVE OF THE MOST CURRENT COUGAR POPULATION," AND THEREFORE NOT SUITABLE FOR ANY OF THESE BILLS.
 - Washington uses the same cougar hunting polices as Oregon and their cougar population has dropped like a rock to approximately 1600 cougar, according to Washington's Fish and Wildlife.
 - California has a decades ban on killing cougar, is a bigger State, has more people and livestock yet their cougar numbers are declining. According to California Fish and Wildlife, their cougar population count is declining at 4000 or below.
 - OREGON DOES NOT HAVE 4000, 5000 OR 6000 COUGAR. IT WAS AN ARBITRARY NUMBER NOT BASED ON SCIENCE USED TO START OREGON'S COUGAR POPULATION COUNT. OREGON NEEDS AN OUTSIDE UNBIASED PEER REVIEW OF ODFW'S COUGAR COUNT.
- **M18 WAS VOTED IN TWICE BY OREGON CITIZENS**, yet ODFW has never supported the voters voice and instead has implemented more programs to bypass M18; killing more cougar now without hounds than before M18 with the use of hounds.

OREGON NEEDS AN OUTSIDE UNBIASED PEER REVIEW OF ODFW'S COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN AND AN ACCURATE COUGAR POPULATION COUNT - NOT MORE LAWS THAT ALLOW COUGARS TO BE KILLED WITH HOUNDS. ODFW'S CURRENT COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN AND POPULATION COUNT ARE OUTDATED, INACCURATE, NOT BASED ON SCIENCE, FLAWED AND DECADES OLD.

VOTE NO ON HB 2624, HB 2390, HB 3395, SB 428

Jayne Miller, Director
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