



FROM THE DESK OF
REP. VIC GILLIAM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Gilliam", written over the typed name.

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Oregon Farm Bureau Supports HB 2390 *Maintain ODFW's Ability to Manage Cougars*

While Ballot Measure 18 outlawed the use of dogs for sport hunting of cougars and black bears, it did provide exceptions for the use of dogs by the department and agents. However, 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, these agents have played important roles 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.