

From: Sally Mackler <sally@predatordefense.org>
Date: May 26, 2015 at 11:44:38 PM PDT
To: Undisclosed recipients:;
Subject: No on HB3188 and HB2182

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Predator Defense, a national wildlife advocacy organization, asks you to oppose HB3188A and HB2182. Both these bills duplicate and add another layer of bureaucracy to the system already in place to provide predator control services in Oregon.

Hb3188A allows the establishment of predator control districts in counties where the budget does not provide for a contract with the federal Wildlife Services program. Only certain property owners would be eligible for membership in the district, depending on the size of their property and if they agree to pay for the services, excluding the rest of the landowners in the area. This is not only allows certain individuals exclusive access to government services, it creates a patchwork of land within which control efforts would be able to operate which is not really feasible or practical to track and kill wild animals. The definition of those 'predatory animals' to be tracked and killed is broader than any in Oregon law. Beyond the definition used in most instances (rodents, rabbits, birds, feral swine and coyotes), it includes bears, cougars, wolves, furbearers, red fox and bobcats. Funding for the district would come from an added property tax. This bill puts a certain type of property owner in charge of wildlife damage control within a district where up to 50% of the landowners may choose not to participate. HB3188 is unfair to the landowners who opt not to participate because they may be negatively impacted by packs of hounds and firearm discharge as agents attempt to track and kill a myriad of species. It creates a patchwork of properties making it difficult to impossible for law enforcement to oversee. Oregon law is very liberal and allows property owners to do their own control measures, to hire a professional, or to appeal to ODFW for assistance. There are volunteer agents deputized by ODFW specifically for damage control; and ODFW has a budget for hiring Wildlife Services for control purposes anywhere in the state.

HB2182 asks ODFW to develop a state predator management plan. There is a system in place for predator control operations and no reason to duplicate or add another layer to what is already there. Current state predator management plans are out of date and in violation of required review and updating. ODFW is facing a major budget crisis and it is not feasible or needed to direct them duplicate what is already in place.

Please vote against duplicative and unnecessary programs, VOTE NO ON HB3188 and HB2182.

Thank you for your consideration.

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