

# House Bill 3000

Sponsored by Representatives SPRENGER, MCLAIN; Representatives BARRETO, BENTZ, ESQUIVEL, HOYLE, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, MCKEOWN, SMITH

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs State Department of Fish and Wildlife to create pilot program that allows persons hunting or pursuing cougars to use dogs. Directs department to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly.

Sunsets program January 2, 2020.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to cougars; and providing for criminal sentence reduction that requires approval by a  
3 two-thirds majority.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) **Notwithstanding ORS 498.164, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
6 **shall create a pilot program allowing persons to use dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal**  
7 **pursuit of cougars. The department shall designate wildlife management areas of the fol-**  
8 **lowing counties as areas in which the use of dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal pursuit**  
9 **of cougars is allowed:**

10 (a) **Umatilla, Wallowa, Union, Baker, Grant, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson,**  
11 **Linn and Marion; and**

12 (b) **Any county not specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection that, on or after June**  
13 **30, 2018, adopts a resolution requesting inclusion in the pilot program.**

14 (2) **The pilot program shall allow for separate hunting and nonlethal pursuit seasons in**  
15 **each area managed by the department.**

16 (3) **The State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall adopt rules to implement the pilot**  
17 **program described in this section. Rules adopted by the commission to implement the pilot**  
18 **program shall:**

19 (a) **Be designed to protect public safety, property and game mammals;**

20 (b) **Be designed to generate data that is necessary for the department to develop the re-**  
21 **port required by section 2 of this 2015 Act;**

22 (c) **Reflect the current and future predictions of cougar populations;**

23 (d) **Reflect the current and future predictions of game mammal populations and rates of**  
24 **taking of game mammals by licensed hunters; and**

25 (e) **Be designed to ensure that the number of cougars prescribed for taking under ORS**  
26 **496.162 is met.**

27 (4) **The commission may not limit the number of cougar tags issued or the number of**  
28 **persons who may utilize dogs under the pilot program. However, the commission may limit**  
29 **the number of cougars that may be taken in order to ensure that the wildlife policy goals**  
30 **of ORS 496.012 are met.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **SECTION 2.** The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall submit a report in the  
2 manner provided in ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an in-  
3 terim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to fish and wildlife no later than Sep-  
4 tember 15, 2018. The report shall be on the pilot program conducted pursuant to section 1  
5 of this 2015 Act and shall contain:

6           (1) Information on the efficacy of the pilot program with regard to cougar population  
7 management and a recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be made per-  
8 manent or should be extended. The department may provide this information on a statewide,  
9 regional or county-by-county basis.

10          (2) A summary of the population data collected during the pilot program.

11          (3) A recommendation for the development of a comprehensive and effective reporting  
12 system for people to report encounters with and sightings of cougars, bears and wolves.

13          (4) A recommendation for a cougar population management system that focuses on con-  
14 trolling the population level.

15          (5) Identification of nonlethal means that would decrease encounters between humans  
16 and cougars.

17          (6) A summary of deer and elk population status during the pilot program in comparison  
18 with the 10 years prior to the implementation of the pilot program.

19          (7) A summary of any relevant elk predation or nutrition research conducted by the de-  
20 partment.

21       **SECTION 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this 2015 Act are repealed on January 2, 2020.  
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