



Volunteer

4 April 2019

Testimony before the Oregon House Natural Resources Committee

Subject: Support of HB 3118

Chair Witt and members of the committee

My name is David Wiley. I live in Sublimity, Oregon. I am a volunteer for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and I am speaking for Foundation,

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation supports HB 3118 which will authorize the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to employ agents utilizing dogs to manage cougar populations.

Oregon has an ever-growing population of cougars, currently estimated to exceed 6400 individuals. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife utilizing harvest by licensed hunters is unable to achieve planned harvest quotas and thus control the growth in population. Achieving cougar population objectives is critical for management of the prey population base – deer and elk – and to reducing cougar-human conflict.

Currently employment of agents utilizing dogs to hunt cougars is authorize for certain cougar management actions other than population regulation. HB 3118 will add a needed and proven tool with which ODFW can use to achieve planned cougar population objectives and reduce or avoid cougar-human conflicts.

Please move HB 3118 out of committee with a Do-pass Recommendation.

Questions?

Thank you.

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