

Submitter: Bob Higgs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

We need less government control of predatory wildlife.

Myself and my neighbors are doing all we can to save our chickens at the moment. There is a bobcat that comes through (caught on a game camera) and cleans out our chickens. I am on my 3rd batch of chickens since last November. We try electric fences and chicken wire but it still finds a way in, even in broad daylight. ODFW says we can hire a trapper - that we can't afford. OGFW says we can only trap them in our pen and in the act, in other words we would be using live bait (our chickens) to trap them, and at the loss of more chickens. Shoot them in the act? There goes more of our chickens, IF we could catch them in the act, good luck hitting them and not a chicken.

We did have 3 flocks of wild turkeys that no longer exist since the bobcat has been coming around. The deer are gone too (which I don't mind because they destroy fruit trees and roses) and I hear we also have a cougar in the area now. About 10 years ago a cougar jumped on the back of one of my wife's horses. We got a one week permit for him, which was worthless because they travel such great distances that it's likely he wouldn't be back for a month or two. I think someone else took care of him because we never did see him again.

We have a registered pond and creek so Beaver, Otter and Nutria are an ongoing problem as I try to keep Bass and water lilies alive. Both are expensive to buy and must be certified when purchased.

We are surrounded by timberland with square miles of area for wildlife to live in. We do not need them coming down and destroying human habitats. Land owners need the freedom to manage their own land from predatory wildlife with minimum restriction.