



1347 Spyglass Court SE, Salem, OR 97306 503-588-6924/503-586-6176
EIN # 38-3893131

February 7, 2025

To: Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee

Dear Senators:

Given what's happening nationally and the potential environmental devastation that will happen with this administration, I am writing to strongly oppose SB769.

The anti-democracy legislators rise again. Oregon voters passed Measure 18 in 1994 and with a greater majority voted against repealing it in 1996. I find it extremely anti-democratic and frankly, disgusting that Oregon Legislators keep trying to figure out ways to kill cougars. The entire idea of an opt-out is just another way to circumvent the established will of Oregon voters. If these Senators want to "opt-out" then resign and move to Idaho. Let's look at the facts:

- Culling a native carnivore population, especially one as sensitive as cougars, is not an effective management approach and will likely disrupt their communities resulting in more, not less, conflicts with humans, pets and livestock.
- According to the nation's top carnivore biologists, ODFW grossly overstates Oregon's cougars by including kittens – most of which don't survive to adulthood – in their estimates. By so doing, and by using other flawed population-estimation techniques, ODFW creates the erroneous impression that Oregon has by far the highest cougar population in the nation.
- Studies show that trophy hunting of cougars exacerbate conflicts with humans, pets and livestock because when adult cats are removed – particularly resident adult males – younger, less experienced cats move into those vacancies, and they are the individuals most likely to engage in livestock predation.

So let this bill die in committee as it should as well as any other anti-wildlife bills.

Thank you,

Lora Meisner, Executive Director