

Submitter: Jerimiah Canaday
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

I support hunting cougars with hounds. Hound hunting is the best for choosing the right mountain lion to harvest as the mature adult Tom's (male) are the ones doing the most damage, but the females do damage on wildlife as well. Cougars aren't going extinct from dogs nor will they ever. We just NEED hounds to help control our deer and elk population as they are plummeting and hound hunting is the most ethical and most efficient way to hunt mountain lions and the deer and elk are taking the brunt of the force of predation and it hurts to see it. As our areas we have become overwhelmed with the presence of mountain lions and our wildlife has had way too much pressure with mountain lions. Ive had dozens of encounters with mountain lions in the woods just in the last few years hunting and you would usually see them once in awhile. I've had countless friends tell me stories recently how many mountain lions they have seen just this last deer season it's ridiculous. They are the ultimate predator in the mountains and don't get me wrong I LOVE mountain lions but I also LOVE hunting deer and elk and mountain lions are the best at killing these animals but they don't have anything trying to hurt them so they have nothing to worry about. There are so many in our county(coos) and our neighboring counties(curry) and (Douglas) they are following the deer in our towns, stalking people, stalking and killing pets, and stalking and killing deer. I attempt to hunt mountain lions in our woods and the only time we can is the snow, they travel so far miles and miles. I just recently had harvested one small tom(male cougar) with straight luck because they are so hard to hunt, you have to physically see them and you still have a 1% chance of killing them. Hound hunting is the best way to preserve our wildlife and even for the mountain lions. Calling cougars with predator calls helps , but it's very inconsistent and difficult to do and it's still not enough to help with our deer and elk population. ODFW trappers already use hounds to harvest cougars so why can't we and get our deer and elk population back where it was 30 years ago. WE DONT WANT TO JUST KILL THEM. We understand the stigma behind hunting but we LOVE these animals and I'd do anything to protect them. I want to see cougars flourish but they need to be controlled, it's impacting everyone's lives that hunt for a living and to put a good healthy meal on the table that's not full of poison from corporate companies that just wanna make a buck.