

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

I have been an outdoorsman all my life. I have never been a cougar hunter. It wasn't of interest to me. I did grow up hunting deer and elk in eastern Oregon and I remember the large number of deer and elk herds. After only a few years of banning the hound hunting the state had to start paying hunters to go in and eliminate cougars that had become over populated. On one elk trip I saw 6 different cougars in approximately a 2sq mile radius. There was even one in my camp. Our elk and deer have never been the same and now with the addition of wolves our big game animals are being impacted in a way that people in the cities don't understand. By allowing each county to vote on how they choose to control these cats, you are allowing those impacted to make the best decisions for their local area. I support moving control of the cougar population to the counties.

Thank you
Ryan Hosek