

My name is Nicholas Roy, I have a farm property in Cheshire, OR and have lost livestock on 3 separate cougar attacks in the last 3 years. Our property sits about 25 miles from Eugene on a rural highway and backed up to 100s of acres of logging land. Our first attack was April 2022 and then we had two attacks in 2024, one in October and one on Christmas Day! All happening mid day, early morning or dusk.

These attacks have been humbling, as livestock owners we understand that we have to be forever vigilant however I do believe that allowing hunters the ability to hunt with dogs again can have positive results for the human residents of Oregon, their livestock and even for cougars. Hunting with dogs allows hunters to tree a cougar and determine whether it is a full grown tom, adolescent or female with kits. Hunting with dogs would also create an added pressure on Cougars, encouraging them to stay away from humans and it should also provide more control of the cougar population which may reduce the pressure on cougar populations further keeping them from creeping down into farm properties. Even having alert dogs has not kept cougars away from our property, it seems many cougars no longer fear dogs (which at one time were one of the best deterrents on a farm). Imagine if one of these cougars had once been chased by some dogs and hunter? I'd wager to guess they would think twice about approaching properties with a barking dog.

For these reasons I support this measure and below is additional testimony of my ordeals trying to protect my livestock and family from cougars.

Our first attack was April 2022. It was a shocking event when during daylight hours I startled the cat in mid kill and saw it leap away into the treeline. If you have not seen a full size cat in real life you may not be aware than these animals are truly LIONS—the cat was at least 3 feet tall on his four legs and leapt over a four foot fence as if it were nothing. We then had two attacks in 2024, the first in October and the second on Christmas day 2024!

When that first attack happened my wife and I were at a loss, with four small children living on the farm and fearing for their safety, we truly did not know what to do. We were not hunters (then or now) and still very new to country living (having grown up as city kids who had chosen to raise our family in the country).

Luckily, gratefully, we were given the contact of Eric Lee a local hunter who is known in our area for helping property owners deal with predators. In the days that followed he was able stalk and kill that cougar and I began to learn much about the cougars, their hunting patterns and how to protect my livestock.

NEWS FLASH! You can't 100% protect your livestock from a determined cat! You can only try your best. That first kill and the following two happened during daylight hours either mid day, early morning or dusk. We lock our animals in at night however it would be almost impossible to enclose grazing pasture from these predators during the day. We've researched livestock guardian dogs, electric fencing, however as I've said these are just protective measures. After that first attack we did try to be much more careful on the farm. Our kids are no longer allowed to play on the pasture without an adult or our big dog and even then my wife and I are racked with fear about it. Two years passed until our next attack in October 2024 and again we were very grateful that Eric was available and successful at dispatching that dangerous cat. Eric like most hunters I've come to know have great admiration for these marvelous predators. Unfortunately though, when one has killed livestock on a property they will remember and keep coming back picking off livestock one by one. Our last attack happened on Christmas day a grim reminder that mother nature and her creatures keep their own calendars. And for a third time Eric Lee arrived to help stalk and dispatch this dangerous cougar, interrupting his own Christmas Day, a testament to his dedication to the community.

I understand the concerns and feelings of those who oppose this change but I don't believe dog hunting is any more stressful on one of these predators than any other form of hunting and better controlling the cougar population should create a healthier one overall.

Finally I would like to acknowledge OWD and the hunters of Oregon like Eric who help property owners deal with these predators. Most property owners do not have the skills or tools necessary for dealing with these kinds of predators . Eric has created a FB group for our region where property owners can communicate vital information about predators that come down in to our area and documentation of the 3 cougar attacks are linked below as well as screenshots.

Thank you,
-Nicholas Roy

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/543189376655875/posts/780403432934467/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/543189376655875/posts/1338291613812310/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/543189376655875/posts/1392538008387670/>



Eric Lee

Admin All-star contributor · April 7, 2022 · 🌐

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This big cat gave me the slip the first night but not the second. Big male guessing 120. Won't be killing any more sheep.



Eric Lee

Admin All-star contributor · April 7, 2022 · 🌐

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This big cat gave me the slip the first night but not the second. Big male guessing 120. Won't be killing any more sheep.



Eric Lee

Admin All-star contributor · October 8, 2024 · 🌐

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The hwy 36 cat was a young Tom. 70#. A good one to stop now. He was trained to kill livestock and would of been very hard on local livestock

