

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

Hello,

My name is Derrick Peasley. I work and live in Vale Malheur County. My family also owns a cattle ranch in Harney County.

I work for the Malheur County Sheriff's Office and have for seven years. In our small community, we have numerous calls of mountain lion sightings within a mile of our town. This year, we had a mountain lion sighting approximately a quarter of a mile away from our elementary school. I believe we have such a high population of mountain lions in our area that they are pressured to move closer and closer to our town.

Fifteen years ago, when people could use dogs to pursue mountain lions, I remember our deer and elk populations way higher than what I have observed in Harney County. At that time, I remember the wintering grounds loaded with elk. Now I see a handful at a time. The deer are scattered and sparse in the winter as well.

With this bill, these two rural counties can make their own decision to help manage these animals for safety and deer and elk conservation. These two counties are often overlooked with laws that are passed in Oregon. This could really be a positive thing for all rural counties in Oregon.

Thank you,  
Derrick Peasley