

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

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept my comments OPPOSING SB 769.

As a rural Oregonian and biologist, I am strongly opposed to trophy hunting of cougars especially with the use of dogs. Oregonians have already voted on this TWICE! How can we justify going against the public will? This attempt at manipulating regulation for a few hunters and ranchers is absolutely unacceptable.

Scientific studies have shown that killing native carnivores disrupts their social structure and communities and may lead to more conflicts, not less. When adults are removed, younger cats lack the experience to hunt appropriately and engage in livestock predation as a result. A study by Teichman, et al (2016) in the BMC Ecology Journal, documented that killing cougars in British Columbia actually increased male cougar-human conflict.

Another study by Laundre and Papouchis (2020) states, "In sum, our analysis of the records obtained from state and federal wildlife agencies found no evidence that sport hunting of pumas has produced the management outcomes sought by wildlife managers aside from providing a sport hunting opportunity. Consequently, and particularly because other research suggests that sport hunting actually exacerbate conflicts between pumas and humans, we recommend that state agencies re-assess the use of sport hunting as a management tool for pumas."

Please vote NO on SB 769.

Sincerely,

Kat Balogh
Scappoose, OR