

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

Growing up in Oregon and being an avid hunter, I support the bill of SB 769. While I understand that cougars are one of the most beautiful and majestic Animals in the world, I also understand how wildlife management works.

When it comes to cougars there is a lack of predators, meaning the only possibly to keep the population in check would be hunting and food. Without the help of canines, hunting cougars can be very difficult as stated in the attachment of the bill. For example, I have spent numerous hours in the woods and have once came upon seven sets of fresh tracks and failed to see a single one of the cougars. These animals are smart and sly. Understanding that some may think that hunting cougars with dogs maybe inhumane, would you rather see a cougar be hunted and killed by an individual who appreciates their true beauty or suffer for many days from starvation.

As far as the deer population goes, I have had the unfortunate opportunity to see the impact first hand. I remember my first tag when I was ten years old and seeing up to 7 or 8 deer on each hunt. Hunting used to be so exciting because you always knew that you were going to catch natures true beauty. Now, taking a youth hunter on those same hunts, with the same feed, and the same cover. We failed to see a single deer. Curious, I dove into the number on the ODFW website, the numbers were alarming. While the deer population has dropped almost -65% since 1994, the cougar population has rose almost 120%. This made me aware of the true crisis that we have going on the state of Oregon.

To close my statement I ask everyone this, Why can't we find a balance? Cougars are a beautiful animal, but so are deer, elk, and big sheep? Why can't we manage both of these populations properly for us, our kids, and generations to enjoy? Is it really going to have to take a small child in the Portland Metro area to killed by a cougar for this to happen?

My name is Ty Reid and I support the Measure of SB769