

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

Testimony in support of local control of hunting methods.

As a resident in rural Oregon I have witnessed firsthand the effects of not allowing nongovernmental hunters access to effective hunting methods for mountain lions. Since banning the use, by sportsmen, of hounds to hunt mountain lions the population of lions in the south western portion of the state where I reside has grown dangerously out of balance with the availability of natural prey animals and appropriate habitat.

As a result livestock and pets in our area are regularly killed by mountain lions that are crowded out or cannot regularly feed themselves from the severely depleted local deer population.

Historically, wildlife managers were able to control the populations of both the lions, and the deer, by maintaining a target lion population with sport hunting being the primary tool used to control those numbers.

Once the only effective way to hunt lions was removed by voters, most of whom had no idea of, and were not directly impacted (yet) by the management methods, it became impossible to control lion populations as before.

This shifted the killing of excess mountain lions from being a cooperative effort between hunters who paid for the ability to harvest a mountain lion, to state employed animal control personnel who still use hounds to hunt the lions, but simply do it at the expense of the state instead.

It is only logical to return control of the method of population management to the locals where they are needed.

An urban area where there may not be a over abundance of lion interaction is free to maintain a "no hound hunting by nongovernmental employees" rule while a rural community can have the opportunity to make an educated vote and allow predator management to be a net gain.

Thank you for considering my experience in this nuanced decision.