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

I think hunters should be allowed to use hounds to hunt cougars. I don't say this lightly either. Cougars are a major issue with natural wildlife such as deer, elk, antelope, etc. They are also a big problem with livestock and the ranching community. Now, if we are allowed to use dogs to hunt these cats and tree them it not only allows us to control their population better but also allows the hunter to pick and choose what cat he or she will fill their tag with. Hunting these animals is to the point where if you see one you shoot it, whether it is a big Tom, a female cat or causing a problem at all. I personally think it's because we want to try and get rid of as many as we can since we can't always find the bigger cats, the ones actually causing a lot of damage to wildlife or livestock. I understand why people think we also shouldn't allow hound hunting but just because you allow people to use a dog to hunt down cats doesn't mean that they are 100% going to be able to get a cat. It does increase their odds of finding one but if the cat ends up being one they don't want to kill, for some reason, they now have a choice to kill it or not, since it is now in a tree and not just passing in front of them on the road or in the woods. Thank you for reading and taking my thoughts into consideration!