

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

I'm a 7th generation rancher and outdoorsmen from eastern Oregon. Ever since the state banned the use of dogs the cougar population has exploded. We had to stop completely running sheep because in one year lost 140 sheep to cougars. We've also lost several horses, lots of baby calves and it's completely devastated our local deer herd. We have also started to loose our bighorn sheep population and they are even killing some of our wild horses. We see them fairly often in the daytime even though a cougar is supposed to be very seclusive.

We need to bring back hounds in Oregon to help regulate the population. Hounds are a good tool in the aid to pursue game but they are not the monster people portray them to be. A mature adult Tom lion weighs 140-180 pounds and it capable of killing adult elk, deer, and horses. A hound weighs and 40 to 70 pounds and even in a pack cannot hurt a cougar. When you tree a cougar they climb up a tree or rock out of the way of the dogs. This also give the hunter a good chance to see the sex of the cat and decide if it's one they want to harvest instead of just shooting them on sight not even being able to judge size or sex. Most of the cats shot like that are immature or kittens.

We need this bill to pass we have lost to much but it's not to late to help the wildlife regenerate there populations before they're wiped out. Obviously we as ranchers and farmers can't recoup the cost of what was lost in livestock but it would give us a the chance to rebuild some of our herd and give us a peace of mind we wouldn't loose as many to cougar.

Thank you for your time.
Justin Davis
Tom Davis livestock