

Submitter: William Dunbar
On Behalf Of: Silvies River Ranch
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB769

I purchased the Sylvie's River Ranch in 1999, it is a working cattle ranch but also been an important part of hunting for my family and friends.

The population was very strong when I bought the ranch, for many years we harvested a small amount of deer and managed the deer herd to maintain a healthy herd with huntable numbers.

The mountain lions have got so bad in the last seven or eight years that it has caused the deer numbers to have dropped to dangerous levels of becoming nonexistent in our area.

Not only does it affect us, but it affects all of the locals in having deer hunts for local families that has been tradional for generations in this area not only furnishing a healthy organic meat but strengthening families and building memories to last a life time!!!

Hunting is big to our youth in our area as well. It seems we have 50% of the kids that Hunt and 50% of the kids that lay on the couch play video games and get in trouble.

I'm afraid if Hunting goes away we will have 100% of the kids laying on the couch and getting into trouble! And these will be our leaders in the near future.

Please allow cougar Hunting to help control the deer numbers in our area and maintain a way of life that's important to the people in our area and surrounding areas that are like thinking.

Thank you.

Billy Dunbar
Silvies River Ranch
Burns Oregon