

SSB 6118 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Fisheries, Ecology & Parks

NOT ADOPTED 03/04/2004

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of fish and wildlife, in
4 cooperation and collaboration with the county legislative authorities
5 of Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Chelan, and Okanogan counties, shall
6 recommend rules to establish a three-year pilot program, beginning
7 September 2004, within select game management units of these counties,
8 to pursue or kill cougars with the aid of dogs. A pursuit season and
9 a kill season with the aid of dogs must be established through the fish
10 and wildlife commission's rule-making process, utilizing local
11 dangerous wildlife task teams comprised of the two collaborating
12 authorities. The two collaborating authorities shall also develop a
13 more effective and accurate dangerous wildlife reporting system to
14 ensure a timely response. The pilot program's primary goals are to
15 provide for public safety, to protect property, and to assess cougar
16 populations.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** After July 1, 2004, a county legislative
18 authority may request inclusion in the pilot project authorized by this
19 act after taking the following actions:

20 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot
21 project;

22 (2) Documenting the need to participate in the pilot program by
23 identifying the number of cougar/human encounters and livestock and pet
24 depredations; and

25 (3) Demonstrating that existing cougar depredation permits, public
26 safety cougar hunts, or other existing wildlife management tools have
27 not been sufficient to deal with cougar incidents in the county."

28 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Authorizes any county legislative authority to request inclusion in the three-year cougar pilot project by documenting needs and showing that current programs are ineffective in controlling the problem. Directs the Fish and Wildlife Department, not the Commission, in cooperation with county legislative authorities, to recommend rules to establish the pilot program.

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