
HOUSE BILL 1832

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Blake, Grant, Holmquist, P. Sullivan, Buri, B. Sullivan, Kristiansen, Serben, Linville, McCune, Orcutt, Sump, Condotta, Cox, Walsh, Clements, Roach, Newhouse, Haler and Pearson

Read first time 02/08/2005. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Ecology & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to disclosure of cougar incidences; and amending
2 RCW 77.15.245.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.15.245 and 2001 c 253 s 31 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.12.240, 77.36.020,
7 77.36.030, or any other provisions of law, it is unlawful to take,
8 hunt, or attract black bear with the aid of bait.

9 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
10 killing of black bear with the aid of bait by employees or agents of
11 county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official
12 capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals,
13 private property, or the public safety.

14 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the
15 establishment and operation of feeding stations for black bear in order
16 to prevent damage to commercial timberland.

17 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
18 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a

1 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for
2 the use of bait to attract black bear for scientific purposes.

3 (d) As used in this subsection, "bait" means a substance placed,
4 exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the
5 purpose of attracting black bears to an area where one or more persons
6 hunt or intend to hunt them.

7 (2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.12.240, 77.36.020, 77.36.030, or any
8 other provisions of law, it is unlawful to hunt or pursue black bear,
9 cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or dogs.

10 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
11 killing of black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or
12 dogs by employees or agents of county, state, or federal agencies while
13 acting in their official capacities for the purpose of protecting
14 livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety.
15 A dog or dogs may be used by the owner or tenant of real property
16 consistent with a permit issued and conditioned by the director.

17 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
18 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a
19 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for
20 the use of a dog or dogs for the pursuit, capture and relocation, of
21 black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx for scientific purposes.

22 (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
23 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a
24 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for
25 the use of a dog or dogs for the killing of black bear, cougar, or
26 bobcat, for the protection of a state and/or federally listed
27 threatened or endangered species.

28 (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, the
29 commission shall authorize the use of dogs only in selected areas
30 within a game management unit to address a public safety need presented
31 by one or more cougar. This authority may only be exercised after the
32 commission has determined that no other practical alternative to the
33 use of dogs exists, and after the commission has adopted rules
34 describing the conditions in which dogs may be used. Conditions that
35 may warrant the use of dogs within a game management unit include, but
36 are not limited to, confirmed cougar/human safety incidents, confirmed
37 cougar/livestock and cougar/pet depredations, and the number of cougar
38 capture attempts and relocations.

1 (b) The department shall post on their internet web site the known
2 details of all reported cougar/human, cougar/pet, or cougar/livestock
3 interactions within ten days of receiving the report. The posted
4 material must include, but is not limited to, the location and time of
5 all reported sightings, and the known details of any cougar/livestock
6 incidents.

7 (4) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section is
8 guilty of a gross misdemeanor. In addition to appropriate criminal
9 penalties, the department shall revoke the hunting license of a person
10 who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section and order the
11 suspension of wildlife hunting privileges for a period of five years
12 following the revocation. Following a subsequent violation of
13 subsection (1) or (2) of this section by the same person, a hunting
14 license shall not be issued to the person at any time.

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