
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2438

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Williams, Blake, McCune, Newhouse, Takko, Chandler, Condotta, Armstrong, Dunn, McDonald, Warnick, and Pearson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding permanency to a pilot project that
2 allowed for the use of dogs in cougar hunting; and amending 2007 c 178
3 ss 1 and 2 (uncodified).

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 2007 c 178 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

6 (1)(a) The department of fish and wildlife, in cooperation and
7 collaboration with the county legislative authorities of Ferry,
8 Stevens, Pend Oreille, Chelan, and Okanogan counties, shall recommend
9 rules to establish a three-year pilot program within select game
10 management units of these counties, to pursue or kill cougars with the
11 aid of dogs.

12 (b) A pursuit season and a kill season with the aid of dogs must be
13 established through the fish and wildlife commission's rule-making
14 process, utilizing local dangerous wildlife task teams comprised of the
15 two collaborating authorities. The two collaborating authorities shall
16 also develop a more effective and accurate dangerous wildlife reporting
17 system to ensure a timely response.

18 (c) The pilot program's primary goals are to provide for public
19 safety, to protect property, and to assess cougar populations.

1 (2) Any rules adopted by the fish and wildlife commission to
2 establish a pilot project allowing for the pursuit or hunting of
3 cougars with the aid of dogs under this section only must ensure that
4 all pursuits or hunts are:

5 (a) Designed to protect public safety or property;

6 (b) Reflective of the most current cougar population data;

7 (c) Designed to generate data that is necessary for the department
8 to satisfy the reporting requirements of section 3 of this act; and

9 (d) Consistent with any applicable recommendations emerging from
10 research on cougar population dynamics in a multiprey environment
11 (~~conducted by Washington State University's department of natural~~
12 ~~resource sciences that was~~) funded in whole or in part by the
13 department of fish and wildlife.

14 (3) The department of fish and wildlife may authorize (~~one~~) three
15 additional seasons in which cougars may be pursued or killed with dogs,
16 subject to the other conditions of the pilot project. (~~This~~) The
17 additional (~~season is~~) seasons are authorized to (~~avoid a lag in~~
18 ~~cougar management and conditioning between the end of the third pilot~~
19 ~~cougar season and the time needed for the 2008 legislature to consider~~
20 ~~the report provided under section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 2004, and is~~
21 ~~not intended to be considered as part of the study period~~) aid the
22 department in the gathering of information necessary to formulate a
23 recommendation to the legislature regarding whether a permanent program
24 is warranted, and if so, what constraints, goals, and objectives should
25 be included in a permanent program.

26 **Sec. 2.** 2007 c 178 s 2 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

27 A county legislative authority may request inclusion in the
28 (~~fourth and final year~~) additional three years of the cougar control
29 pilot project authorized by (~~chapter 264, Laws of 2004~~) section 1 of
30 this act after taking the following actions:

31 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot
32 project;

33 (2) Documenting the need to participate in the pilot project by
34 identifying the number of cougar/human encounters and livestock and pet
35 depredations;

36 (3) Developing and agreeing to the implementation of an education

1 program designed to disseminate to landowners and other citizens
2 information about predator exclusion techniques and devices and other
3 nonlethal methods of cougar management; and

4 (4) Demonstrating that existing cougar depredation permits, public
5 safety cougar hunts, or other existing wildlife management tools have
6 not been sufficient to deal with cougar incidents in the county.

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