
HOUSE BILL 1756

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Upthegrove, B. Sullivan, Blake, Takko and VanDeWege

Read first time 01/26/2007. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of fish and wildlife's hound
2 hunting cougar season pilot project; amending 2004 c 264 s 1
3 (uncodified); and creating a new section.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** 2004 c 264 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) 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. A pursuit season and a kill season with the aid of dogs
12 must be established through the fish and wildlife commission's rule-
13 making process, utilizing local dangerous wildlife task teams comprised
14 of the two collaborating authorities. The two collaborating
15 authorities shall also develop a more effective and accurate dangerous
16 wildlife reporting system to ensure a timely response. The pilot
17 program's primary goals are to provide for public safety, to protect
18 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 department
13 of fish and wildlife.

14 (3) The department of fish and wildlife may authorize one
15 additional season in which cougars may be pursued or killed with dogs,
16 subject to the other conditions of the pilot project. This additional
17 season is authorized to avoid a lag in cougar management and
18 conditioning between the end of the third pilot cougar season and the
19 time needed for the 2008 legislature to consider the report provided
20 under section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 2004.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A county legislative authority may request
22 inclusion in the cougar control pilot project authorized by chapter
23 264, Laws of 2004 after taking the following actions:

24 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot
25 project;

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

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

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