

ESHB 1756 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation

NOT ADOPTED 04/10/2007

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

3 "Sec. 1. 2004 c 264 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as  
4 follows:

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

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

- 22 (a) Designed to protect public safety or property;  
23 (b) Reflective of the most current cougar population data;  
24 (c) Designed to generate data that is necessary for the department  
25 to satisfy the reporting requirements of section 3 of this act; and  
26 (d) Consistent with any applicable recommendations emerging from  
27 research on cougar population dynamics in a multiprey environment  
28 conducted by Washington State University's department of natural  
29 resource sciences that was funded in whole or in part by the department  
30 of fish and wildlife.

1       (3) The department of fish and wildlife shall authorize one  
2 additional season in which cougars may be pursued or killed with dogs,  
3 subject to the other conditions of the pilot project.

4       NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 77.12 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6       The department shall create a cougar control program that, based  
7 upon and consistent with the results and final recommendations  
8 contained within the pilot project report required by chapter 264, Laws  
9 of 2004, allows for the pursuit or killing of cougars with the aid of  
10 dogs. A county legislative authority may request inclusion in the  
11 cougar control program after taking the following actions:

12       (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the cougar  
13 control program;

14       (2) Documenting the need to participate in the cougar control  
15 program by identifying the number of cougar/human encounters and  
16 livestock and pet depredations;

17       (3) Developing and agreeing to the implementation of an education  
18 program designed to disseminate to landowners and other citizens  
19 information about predator exclusion techniques and devices and other  
20 nonlethal methods of cougar management; and

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

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24       On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "project;" strike the  
25 remainder of the title and insert "amending 2004 c 264 s 1  
26 (uncodified); and adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW."

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