

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2438**

Chapter 8, Laws of 2008

60th Legislature  
2008 Regular Session

HOUND HUNTING--COUGARS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/12/08

Passed by the House February 19, 2008  
Yeas 66 Nays 29

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2008  
Yeas 31 Nays 18

BRAD OWEN

**President of the Senate**

Approved March 13, 2008, 10:06 a.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2438** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 13, 2008

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2438**

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Passed Legislature - 2008 Regular Session

**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.

Passed by the House February 19, 2008.

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2008.

Approved by the Governor March 13, 2008.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 13, 2008.