

SHB 2438 - H AMD 1285

By Representative Blake

ADOPTED 2/19/2008

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

3 "Sec. 1. 2007 c 178 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 (1)(a) 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
8 recommend rules to establish a three-year pilot program within
9 select game management units of these counties, to pursue or kill
10 cougars with the aid of dogs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (d) Consistent with any applicable recommendations emerging
30 from research on cougar population dynamics in a multiprey
31 environment (~~conducted by Washington State University's department~~

1 ~~of natural resource sciences that was~~) funded in whole or in part
2 by the department of fish and wildlife.

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

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

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

22 (1) Adopting a resolution that requests inclusion in the pilot
23 project;

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

27 (3) Developing and agreeing to the implementation of an
28 education program designed to disseminate to landowners and other
29 citizens information about predator exclusion techniques and
30 devices and other nonlethal methods of cougar management; and

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

35
EFFECT: Extends the cougar hunting pilot program an additional
three years, instead of making the program permanent.