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Comments:

Good Morning,

Please see attached a testimony for a proposed cougar bill in Oregon. Your cougar management plan needs to be improved to allow cougars to established fully functioning ecological populations. They mitigate Lyme disease by reducing the tick's ecology and human exposure. Cougar also sanitizes the ecosystems by removing deer infected with chronic wasting disease BEFORE the symptoms are visible to the human eye. You are merely managing for hunting and invasive species livestock profits, and not for the ecosystems for which the cougar improve for everyone. You cannot stop auto accidents any more than you can prevent a rare cougar attack, but we can educate the public and create management plans that reduce accidents. Killing more cougar increases more cougar, livestock, and human conflicts. Killing less cougar reduces such conflicts, including Lyme disease exposure and CWD. The Dakota's have sick ecosystems for which the cougar can repair. I apologize for using an Oregon testimony. When I was notified, I had little time to do much better. Stop killing your cougar, use them to fix the health of your lands, improve your deer herds, reduce deer/auto collisions, and decrease your growing Lyme disease issue. Here in Oregon, Lyme disease costs the state billions of dollars.