

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

April 12, 1999 Hearing Room HR D

1:00 P.M. Tapes 102 - ??

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Jim Welsh, Chair

Rep. Jackie Taylor, Vice-Chair

Rep. Jason Atkinson

Rep. Richard Devlin

Rep. Juley Gianella

Rep. Deborah Kafoury

Rep. Jeff Kruse

Rep. Jeff Merkley

Rep. Susan Morgan

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina McNitt, Administrator

Danielle Hamilton, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 102, A		

005	Chair Welsh	Calls meeting to order and opens public hearing on
018	Rep. Simmons	(EXHIBIT A) Sponsor of HB 2873. HB 2874. Discusses HB 2874. HB 2875 public 2875. Discusses public safety.
070	Rep. Simmons	Discusses the fear of citizens of cougars
092	Rep. Jenson	Gives an example of the cougars moving into popular areas. Comments on the large amount of cougar reports.
131	Rod Harder	(EXHIBIT B) Executive Director of . Discusses the effects of measure 18. Addresses damage complaints.
180	Harder	Continues to testify on the large problem of cougar and bear population rising. Fiscal impact of predator population.
226	Chair Welsh	Asks if
228	Rep. Simmons	Answers he just got the -? Amendments. States that people who live in rural
241	Rep. Taylor	Asks how the cougar tag was raised
245	Harden	Answers yes.
248	Rep. Taylor	Asks
255	Harden	Answers that
260	Rep. Simmons	Reads information from ODFW.
276	Harden	Comments that 230 cougars were killed on damage complaints.
285	Rep. Jenson	Responds to Rep. Taylor question.
299	Rep. Taylor	Asks if the preference would to be
305	Harden	Answers
308	Rep. Morgan	Asks Rod to explain the need for dogs in hunting cougars.

311	Harden	Explains the difficulty in hunting cougars.
335	Rep. Merkley	
340	Rep. Simmons	
349	Rep. Mekley	
353	Rep. Simmons	
376	Rep. Gianella	
TAPE 103, A		
022	Rep. Gianella	Comments on the issue of safety.
028	Mary Berryman	(EXHIBIT D, E, F). Reads testimony.
040	Rep. Simmons	Continues to reads Berrymanís testimony (EXHIBIT D).
090	Rep. Simmons	Continues to reads Berrymanís testimony (EXHIBIT D).
140	Rep. Simmons	Continues to reads Berrymanís testimony (EXHIBIT D).
190	Rep. Simmons	Continues to reads Berrymanís testimony (EXHIBIT D). Comments on the trama of Mary Berryman. States that the cougars
235	Gaile Ellison	Jackson County. (EXHIBIT G) Testifies in support of . Testifies on her experiences with a cougar siting on
285	Ellison	Continues to testify on her experience with.
345	Ellison	Discusses the increase
395	Ellison	Problems with tracking cougars. Gives examples of the increased cougar sitings.
TAPE 102, B		
045	Ellison	Reads a letter from Amber Applegate (EXHIBIT G, I).

095	Ellison	
109	Tulslin Ellison	Discusses EXHIBIT G.
133	Rep. Atkinson	States that Gaile and Tulslin Ellison are his
142	Tulsin	
145	Rep. Atkinson	Discusses the
164	James Workman	Wallowa County. Provides overview of the survey in (EXHIBIT J)
230	Workman	Gives a scenario. Question if the ODFW should be restricted from controlling cougars.
290	Workman	Reads letters from EXHIBIT J. `
360	Workman	Continues to read letter from EXHIBIT J.
422	Rep. Gianella	Asks about letter in EXHIBIT J. Asks if more than one
027	Workman	Answers yes.
043	Jim Soares	Wallowa County. Testifies in support to. Testifies on his experience with a cougar.
090	Soares	Continues to testify on his experiances with a cougar. Discusses EXHIBIT K
099	Rep. Taylor	Asks if after the dear and elk
106	Soares	Answers that eventually that will happen.
125	Eldon Deardorff	EXHIBIT L)Explains they are concerned about. Explains numerous studies have been conducted. Feels the longer they wait, the deeper they will be in the hole.
167	Deardorff	States they do not want to see all predators eliminated. Notes there has not been a bad winter in Eastern Oregon for years. Notes it takes many animals to feel

		cougars and bears. Adds if there was a bad winter, the animals would die off, and it would take a long time to bring the population back. EXHIBIT L (handout from mayor of Halfway, Oregon).
192	Deardorff	Reads from EXHIBIT L. Notes he has been out on four complaints around the town of Halfway. It is difficult to eliminate these animals the way we have to because people's hearts were too big. Reads from several testimonies regarding cougars and their dangers to children and livestock. Points out a graph from Fish and Wildlife in Baker County.
233	Deardorff	Adds that a cougar does not have their young only in the spring; they can have them year-round.
248	Rep. Morgan	Asks how many off spring
257	Deardorff	Answers
259	Rep. Morgan	Asks if the increase
263	Deardorff	Answers yes.
273	Rep. Taylor	Asks about the kyot population.
276	Deardorff	Answers the kyote population is a high as ever.
289	Vick Cogins	Wildlife biologist for the enerprize
303	Rep. Kruse	Asks for explantion
317	Cogins	Explains his descion
323	Rep. Taylor	Asks how will it be known when the cougar population be thinned out.
329	Cogins	Answers that
335	Rep. Morgan	Asks if the area has a harves quota
340	Cogins	Answers about
345	Rep. Morgan	Asks if in the last five years

350	Cogins	Answer that he is not sure
354	Rep. Morgan	Asks if the cougars that were captured
360	Cogins	Answers
361	Rep. Morgan	
366	Cogins	Answers that
374	Rep. Morgan	Asks what the movement of the population
376	Cogins	Answers the population and that there is more prey in other areas.
391	Rep. Morgan	Clarifies her thoughts
400	Cogins	Answers
405	Rep. Simmons	Asks what has caused the reduction in elk
TAPE 104, A		
013	Cogins	Overviews the history of the elk in the ? area. Explains the reduction of the elk in the ? area.
024	Rep. Simmons	Asks a side from the tough winter what is
030	Cogins	Answers that
032	Rep. Simmons	Asks what is the primary predator
039	Cogins	Answers that he believes that cougars
043	Rep. Simmons	Clarifies that
048	Cogins	
066	Rep. Gianella	Asks in the supervised area what is the supervised area.

068	Cogins	Answers that
075	Rep. Merkley	Asks
078	Cogins	
080	Rep. Merkley	
081	Cogins	Answers
085	Rep. Merkley	
089	Cogins	Answers that
095	Rep. Merkley	Asks if
099	Cogins	Answers that he can not answer that question
109	Rep. Merkley	Asks if there is any reason the numbers should be suspected
126	Rep. Simmons	States that
135	Cogions	
144	Simmons	
171	Rep. Taylor	Asks if there is a proble with bears.
180	Cogins	Answers that his area has not
210	Rep. Simmons	Asks

214	Cogins	Answers
218	Rep. Simmons	Asks what kind of tool
221	Cogins	Suggest a couple of possible options that may be helpful
236	Rep. Simmons	
238	Cogins	Answers that he does not know.
244	Rep. Simmons	Asks
247	Cogisn	Answers that he would reduce the population of cougars.
254	Al Wilkison	
270	Sandy Snaderson	(EXHIBIT M)
280	Rep. Taylor	Asks
290	Sanderson	Answers
300	Chair Welsh	Asks what
305	Sanderson	Answers
310	Chair Welsh	Asks
320	Sanderson	Answerw that
335	Chair Welsh	Comments on private property.
346	Sanderson	Comments
358	Stanly Patrouski	Douglas County. Discusses his experiences with cougars killing his angora goats.
400	Patroski	Continues to express frustration with not knowing how to protect his property.

TAPE 105, A

050	Patroski	Continues to express frustration with the cougars on his property. Urges the committee to help him.
100	Chair Welsh	Comments that
115	Patroski	Asks
120	Rep. Morgan	Comments on her concerns with the cougars.
148	David Mahony	Aoncalla. Testifies on his experiences with the cougars. Urges the committees support.
187	Rep. Taylor	Asks if bears are a problem
192	Mahony	Answers that they do not seem to be a problem.
205	Rep. Kruse	Comments that cougars are a problem
218	Jerry Hatton	Rice Valley. Testifies in support. Questions if it is alright to pay someone to kill cougars, but it is not alright to have hunter kill them.
275	Hatton	4%. Continues to express frustration with
296	Red Phillips	Roseburg. Testifies on the history.
337	Jerry Myra	Testifies in support of HB .
374	Rod Klawitter	Western Wildlif Association and . Testifies in support to HB 2874. Discusses the need to manage cougars. Comments on the differences between management and controlling of the cougars.
025	Klawitter	
057	Patrick Buckley	Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition. Testifies in opposition to . Addresses his concerns with
110	Chair Welsh	Asks

115	Patrick Buckley	Answers Portland
129	Rep. Gianella	Asks
132	Buckley	Answers that
136	Rep. Gianella	Asks if Buckley
138	Buckley	Answers that
143	Rep. Morgan	Asks
148	Buckley	Answers
153	Rep. Morgan	Asks
157	Buckley	Answers that
161	Rep. Morgan	Asks if
164	Buckley	Answers that
168	Rep. Morgan	Comments that the idea of the bills being heard today is to restore the balance.
174	Buckley	Answers that the same aguments were around
183	Rep. Morgan	Comments that
186	Buckley	Answers . States that
216	Chair Welsh	Comments that
225	Rep. Atkinson	Comments that
258	Buckley	Restates that within measure 18 management is included.

282	Rep. Simmons	Asks if
286	Buckley	Answers no.
294	Rep. Simmons	Comments
330	Buckley	Comments that he does not understand why the issue can not be worked through measure 18.
350	Rep. Simmons	
376	Rep. Kruse	Comments that
397	Rep. Merkley	Asks if there has ever been attacked
401	Buckley	Answers yes.
408	Rep. Merkley	Asks
413	Buckley	
417	Rep. Merkley	Asks
421	Buckley	Answers
426	Chair Welsh	Recess
<u>RECESS</u>		
TAPE 105, B		
002	Chair Welsh	Calls meeting to order at 6:05 and reopens public hearing on HB 2873, HB 2874, and HB 2875.
010	Jeff Watkins	
060	Watkins	Slam dunk
068	Rep. Kruse	Comments that

081	Rep. Gianella	States that there does seem to be a serous problem
092	Watkins	Comments that he feels the current law
101	Rep. Merkley	Reads a study.
124	Watkins	Answers that he is not familiar with the indicated st
130	Glen Stonebrink	Oregon Cattlemenís Association. Discusses section 18 of the Oregon Constitution. Expresses concerns with HB 2874.
155	Rep. Gianella	Asks
160	Stonebrink	Answers yes
165	Rep. Gianella	Asks why.
175	Michelle Blake	Salem. (EXHIBIT Q) Testifies in opposition to.
225	Blake	
275	Rep. Gianella	Asks
280	Blake	Answers
295	Rep. Gianella	Asks
298	Blake	Answers
300	Rep. Kruse	Asks if Blake feels
325	Blake	Agrees that there are regional
342	Rep. Kruse	Comments that
351	Rep. Gianella	
356	Chair Welsh	Asks if Blake has ever lived in

362	Blake	Answers yes.
373	Rep. Welsh	Comments that
394	Susaan Mentley	Testifies in opposition to HB
TAPE 106, A		
045	Mentley	Sites the program that can deal with live stock pridation.
076	Chair Welsh	Comments that
078	Mentley	
080	Chair Welsh	
090	Rep. Kruse	Comments that
104	Rep. Gianella	Asks about the program that pays for livestock damage.
108	Mentley	Comments that
113	Rep. Gianella	
118	Mentley	Answers that
121	Rep. Gianella	States that
125	Rep. Welsh	
130	Rep. Merkley	Comments that
140	Chair Welsh	Comments that .
162	Andrea Banch	Testifies in opposition to HB .
214	Rep. Kruse	Comments that the goal is not to gut measure 18, but adding management tools.
249	Banch	Notes that the wording of the bills is

278	Rep. Kruse	States
298	Banch	
313	Rep. Kruse	Comments that
321	Banch	Reiterates that
352	Rep. Gianella	Asks what Banch
368	Banch	Suggest that some of the
384	Rep. Gianella	Asks if Banch has a personal
392	Banch	Answers that her compramise
407	Rep. Gianella	Asks w
416	Banch	Clarifies that
003	Brandy James	Sweet Home. Testifies in support of HB.
035	Chair Welsh	Asks`
040	James	Answers Sweet Home.
045	Chair Welsh	Asks if the cougares are sited
050	James	Answers outskirts of town
053	Berry	(EXHIBIT U) Provides overview of cougar hunting before measure 18.
097	Rep. Morgan	Asks for clarification on
099	Berry	Answers
101	Rep. Morgan	Asks

103	Berry	Answers yes. Continues testimony by discussing the cougar and bear complaints.
146	Rep. Kafoury	Asks if a person was allowed to
155	?	Answers that. Discusses the issue of safety. Address mountain lions.
205	?	Taking a cat.
215	Chair Welsh	Asks what means
219	?	Answers hounds
220	Chair Welsh	
225	?	Comments of that
234	Chair Welsh	Akss when the no
235	?	Answers three years
240	Rep. Kafoury	Aks if there was a time
243	?	Answers
247	Chair Welsh	Answers that
251	?	Refers question to
268	Berry	Answers no ODFW has not assed the
272	Rep. Gianella	Asks
275	Berry	ODFWis funds.
280	Rep. Devlin	Asks

285	Berry	Answers that personal safety
291	Rep. Devlin	
311	Berry	Answers
329	Rep. Devlin	
337	Mark Ingim	Explains the differnt
375	Rep. Devlin	Asks
379	Ingim	Answer that before . Notes that the . Discusses the
TAPE 106, B		
011	Chair Welsh	Asks how long the tagging
016	Ingim	Answers that the study went from 1989 to
021	Berry	Points out And overviews maps in (EXHIBIT U).
053	Rep. Gianella	Asks ingim
056	Ingim	Asks for clarification
058	Rep. Gianella	Restates her question
065	Ingim	
067	Rep. Gianella	Asks how much the hunter were paid.
071	Ingim	Answers that
073	Rep. Gianella	Asks how many hound men
075	Ingim	Answers

078	Berry	Explains ODFW's contingency attack program.
095	Rep. Morgan	Asks if ODFW is expecting that there might be a
102	Berry	Answers that ODFW want to be prepared
109	Rep. Morgan	Asks if it safe to assume that if
119	Berry	Answers yes.
131	Ingim	Comments that he is not sure that an attempt has been made
153	Rep. Taylor	Asks what
159	Ingim	Comments that it is an animal that is hungry and desperate.
175	Rep. Taylor	Asks about bears
179	Ingim	Explains complaints of bears.
186	Rep. Taylor	Asks how a place that could be reached
199	Berry	Comments that
204	Ingim	Resonds to Rep. Taylor's question with some examples.
248	Berry	Comments that the mountain lions
258	Chair Welsh	Comments
266	Rep. Gianella	Asks that
270	Berry	Answers
272	Rep. Gianella	Asks
275	Berry	Answers
281	Rep. Gianella	

290	Ingim	Answers that he could give the cost of a recent bear study. Gives an example of the difficulty
314	Rep. Kruse	Asks if ODFW has an agency wide
328	Berry	Answers yes.
337	Rep. Kruse	Asks at what point is there nothing ODFW could do.
346	Berry	
355	Rep. Kruse	Clarifies that the steps that
361	Berry	Answers that the idea is to catch the cougar
369	Rep. Kruse	Comments that a person would assume that ODFW
376	Chair Welsh	
385	Ingim	Explains the process of
401	Rep. Devlin	Asks if under the current law if ODFW could provide protection to the
415	Berry	Clarifies the question.
TAPE 107, B		
008	Rep. Devlin	
010	Berry	Answers yes.
014	Rep. Morgan	Asks if the solution were to divert those numbers down
024	Ingim	Explains difficulties in
054	Rep. Morgan	Asks if it is possible to combine one program
060	Berry	Answers that

076	Rep. Morgan	Asks if
079	Berry	Expresses concerns with HB2874.
088	Rep. Gianella	Asks about page three of EXHIBIT U.
094	Berry	Explains the quota system.
098	Rep. Gianella	
101	Berry	Answers that
106	Rep. Gianella	Asks if Berry has any suggestions
109	Berry	Answers that there is not much more that can be done within existing statues.
118	Rep. Merkley	Asks what is the prediction as to where the cougar population will level out.
125	Berry	Answer that he does not know.
134	Rep. Merkley	Asks if
143	Ingim	Asks for clarificaiton.
145	Rep. Merkley	Clarifies the question
152	Ingim	Explains with problems with the current cougar hunting system, states that it is not very managed.
166	Rep. Merkley	Suggest appointments.
181	Berry	Comments on the problems with focusing hunting on urban areas.
198	Rep. Kruse	Comments on concerns with comparing studies. Asks if
205	Berry	Answers that
217	Rep. Kruse	States that he does not see

220	Berry	Answers
231	Rep. Kruse	
232	Berry	Answers there is not a problem on federal land.
237	Chair Welsh	Asks Berry what the legislature could do to solve some of the problems with cougars.
246	Berry	Answers that
272	Chair Welsh	Comments on the importance of responding quickly to safety
306	Berry	Comments that resources are an issue.
319	Chair Welsh	Asks if locally through ODFW could an agreement be reached.
332	Berry	Answers that an agreement can be reached. Explains the difficulties with a program.
358	Chair Welsh	States that his goal is to get
374	Berry	States that he does feel that ODFW is responding immediately to health and safety issues.
394	Josh Amous	Chief of staff for Rep. Simmons. Reads eastern Oregon.
055	Amous	Continues
070	Chair	Closes hearing on HB 2873, HB 2874, HB 2875 and opens HJM 6
		8:30

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Danielle Hamilton, Kristina McNitt,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A -