

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Hearing Room  
Tapes - 26

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REP. BILL FISHER, Chair  
REP. TONY CORCORAN, Vice-Chair  
REP. LARRY WELLS  
REP. JIM WELSH  
REP. TIM JOSI

STAFF PRESENT:

PAT ZWICK, Committee Administrator  
GAIL E. BOESCH, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD:

HB 2180 - Work Session  
HB 2584 - Public Hearing

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE , A

004 CHAIR FISHER: Calls the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

Opens the Work Session On HB 2180

MOTION: REP. CORCORAN: Moves to AMEND HB 2180 by inserting the word "logs" into the wood products list.

VOTE: Hearing no objections, the AMENDMENT is ADOPTED. REP. JOSI is EXCUSED.

MOTION: REP. CORCORAN: Moves HB 2180 AS AMENDED be sent to the Full Committee with a DO PASS recommendation.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote AYE. REP. JOSI is EXCUSED.

CHAIR FISHER: The motion CARRIES.

025 CHAIR FISHER: Closes the Work Session on HB 2180

Opens the PublicHearing on HB 2584

Witnesses: Rod Harder  
Rep. Denny Jones  
Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen  
Sen. Bill Dwyer  
Rep. Larry Sowa  
Richard Harding  
Rod Ingram, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife(ODFW)  
Jim Greer, ODFW  
Assemblyman David Knowles, California  
Captain Lindsay Ball, Oregon State Police  
Ron Anglin, ODFW  
Steve Denney, ODFW  
Mark Henjum, ODFW  
Stephen Kafoury, Wildlife Society  
Charles Meslow, Biologist

Donald Neal  
Don Lay  
Wayne Pacelle, Oregon Humane Society  
Rick Hopkins, Ph.D  
Bud Hemmons  
George Hutchinson  
Claudia Beausoleil  
Evelyn Roether  
Bill Boyer  
Cheryle York  
Darryl B. Turner  
Gregg Clapper, Oregon Hunter's Association  
Monica Bond  
Jim Ince  
Scott Beckstead, Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition  
Candace Ann Cooke  
Cathy Sue and Roger Anunsen  
Andrew Rodman  
Barbara Kelley, Save Our Ecosystem  
Sally Mackler  
R.J. Simington

050 REP. MARKHAM: Introduces HB 2584, which he sponsors. Submits Exhibit A, which he refers to throughout his testimony.

112 - Ballot Measure 18, " first shot in stopping all hunting in Oregon"

157 - Urges support of responsible wildlife management practices, and passage of HB 2584.

Chair Fisher submits Exhibit B, a voting demographic of Measure 18.

173 ROD HARDER, OREGON SPORTSMAN'S DEFENSE FUND, INC. : Submits Exhibit C, supporting passage of HB 2584.

260 REP. LUKE: Questions whether a study of potential effect was completed before passage of Measure 18.

266 HARDER: Responds, yes, elaborates.

282 REP. DENNY JONES: Favors the repeal of Measure 18.

300 REP. LIZ VANLEEUEWEN: Favors passage of HB 2584.

324 SEN. BILL DWYER: Comments about lack of sensitivity by people who are opposed to hunting in general. Continues, supporting passage of HB 2584. -Sociological vs. biological evidence (management).

385 -Continues, citing various problems with cougars in urban areas.

TAPE 22, A

005 SEN. DWYER: Continues testifying in support of repealing Measure 18. - Calls for double majority to resolve urban/rural conflict involved in votes regarding hunting. -The stated goal of the Humane Society is to outlaw hunting, according to Sen. Dwyer.

053 REP. JOSI: Problem as he sees it, really close to a voter revolt. Questions how can we justify turning over something that hasn't had a chance to work.

075 SEN. DWYER: Don't have an answer; balance, statutory in nature. Intent of the law; continues.

110 REP. UHERBELAU: Comments that a repealed measure could come back as a constitutional amendment, harder to change then.

122 SEN. DWYER: Answer your own question; do what you have to do.

132 REP. THOMPSON: Three different issues, bear hunting, cougar hunting, baiting.

140 SEN. DWYER: Recounts history of anti-hunting legislation; discusses hunting with hounds, ability to decide whether to take the animal (when treed).  
- We all have to work smarter.

181 REP. LARRY SOWA: Speaks in support of HB 2584. Discusses problems of

wildlife management and emotionalism regarding this bill.

248 REP. WELSH: Calls attention to letters calling for repeal of Measure 18, Exhibit U, (submitted to staff prior to meeting).

282 STAFF: For the record, submits a letter from Idaho, calling attention to emotionalism and misrepresentation of an anti-cougar ad. Todd Molitar (Exhibit D)

320 RICHARD HARDING: Presents a visual display regarding Measure 18 impacts. Enumerates and describes cougar attacks. Opposes Measure 18, supports passage of HB 2584.

TAPE 21, B

020 HARDING: Continues with facts and figures supporting his position.

066 - Voting public, uneducated in the matters of biology, etc. Cites his facts, emphasizing that the cougars and bears are in different districts than the voters who outlawed the hunting process.

098 "Majority of cougar attacks take place in county parks".

144 ROD INGRAM, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE: Submits Exhibit E, providing information regarding bears and cougars, and the effects of Measure 18. Reads from exhibit.

220 -Continues reading; cites hunting success statistics, notes the expected reduction in successful hunts.

260 - No biological evidence has been submitted to indicate problems in maintaining populations.

286 -ODFW applauds any decision to return wildlife management to the department.

306 REP. THOMPSON: What year was cougar named game animal - questions statistics in Exhibit E.

318 INGRAM: Down to 200 animals before put under protection prograMeasure  
Discussion follows

346 REP. CORCORAN: Questions hunting allowed in 5 year plan; ramifications of Measure 18 and hunting method.

360 JIM GREER, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE (ODFW): Nearly 100% of cougars harvested with dogs; less with bears. Would be very restricted by Measure 18 dictates.

380 ASSEMBLYMAN DAVID KNOWLES, CALIFORNIA: (Represents Lake Tahoe area, Placerville, to Sacramento line). Tells horror story from California regarding Barbara Schoner. "Game Non-management"; discusses problems with California law as it exists today.

TAPE 22,B

040 ASSEMBLYMAN KNOWLES: Continues offering statistics regarding "game non-management", and problems with livestock kills.

080 - Presents overhead projections offering statistics  
- Estimated Mountain Lion Population  
- Depredation Permits Issued vs. Lions Killed  
- Reported Mountain Lion Incidents Statewide

120 - Calls attention to upward trend in graphs presented. Urges specific management plans to minimize impact of mountain lions.

140 REP. TARNO: Questions whether California will be handling same issue in Assembly.

150 KNOWLES: Yes, elaborates on the legislation basically outlawing hunting in California.

183 REP. UHERBELAU: Requests definition of the term "contact".

190 KNOWLES: Means incidents, both human confrontations and livestock

attacks.

211 REP. UHERBELAU: Refers to final screen, questions whether there was any further study done to clarify reasons behind incidents.

252 KNOWLES: Responds, urges sensible balanced resource management.

271 CHAIR FISHER: Reconvenes meeting under special status until quorum is present.

300 CAPTAIN LINDSAY BALL, OSP: Submits Exhibit F, providing information regarding HB 2584.

415 RON ANGLIN, STEVE DENNEY, MARK HENJUM, ODFW: Provide testimony regarding bear and cougar studies.

434 REP. TARNO: Questions if bear and cougar populations are imperiled.

444 ANGLIN: Responds that cougar population is growing at 5% per year, to an estimated 8,000 animals in 2015.

TAPE 23, A

025 ANGLIN: Continues his testimony.

General discussion of Measure 18 and population statistics.

044 REP. WELSH: Poses question regarding use of dogs and how many cougars captured.

054 DENNEY: The department used volunteer houndsmen; captured 22 cougars in the study he cites.

067 REP. WELSH: Asks if anyone or any dog bitten or mauled.

070 DENNEY: One dog was injured.

073 REP. WELSH: Any fatalities of kittens from hounds.

078 DENNEY: One litter had several kittens killed.

080 HENJUM: Discusses Katherine Creek study, all lions captured with hounds, marked with radio collars. No harm to kittens or hounds.

095 REP. WELSH: Questions numbers of cougars killed by pursuit or capture, and whether these methods are considered cruel or inhumane by Mr. Henjum.

Discussion continues regarding hunting methods, humaneness.

128 REP. CORCORAN: Questions the effect on other wildlife regarding predator/prey relationship, referring to population control.

140 ANGLIN: Valuable tools to study the animals.

146 REP. UHERBELAU: There are other means of hunting besides hounds and baiting.

155 ANGLIN: Have to look at most successful means of take.

165 REP. UHERBELAU: Questions whether success was because the major means of take was the only means.

175 ANGLIN: Provides comparative statistics regarding hunting by hound and by "boot", using Washington State as example.

205 REP. TARNO: Questions impact on deer and elk herds.

210 ANGLIN: Will be impact, not sure how extensive over the long term.

241 REP. THOMPSON: Referring to Exhibit F, questions statistics.

Note: Rep Corcoran is no longer in attendance - 3:55 PM.

272 REP. NORRIS: Shares statistics from his district; "would find it very easy to support this measure".

285 REP. WELSH: Questions if ODFW has the money in their budget to hire a control agent if Measure 18 remains in force.

294 HENJUM: Probably not.

Discussion of rate to hire houndsmen \$200/day.

330 REP. WELSH: Notes potential for problems if someone has to be hired to handle cougar.

348 CHAIR FISHER: Questions public statements from Measure 18 ad campaigns regarding overheating of bears under pursuit.

361 ANGLIN: Was about polar bears, aging and high body fat.

377 HENJUM: Explains the process of following bears under pursuit by the Department.

414 REP. WELSH: Quotes voters pamphlet statement, questions if Mr. Henjum has ever witnessed these events in the course of his studies.

TAPE 24, A

Discussion follows about the hounds upsetting the deer and elk; the basic response is that the deer run off, look back and listen to the events, and suffer no long term problem Measure

037 STEPHEN KAFOURY, WILDLIFE SOCIETY: Here in an educational sense, regarding wildlife.

045 CHARLES MESLOW, BIOLOGIST: Testifies to educate regarding the harvest of animals as a means of population control. Submits and reads Exhibit G.

Current studies indicate increasing populations of bear and cougars, contact with humans "inevitable" Setting wildlife regulations by ballot box is a bad move.

095 CHAIR FISHER: Questions whether he agrees with data presented in testimony today.

100 MESLOW: What we have seen is accurate.

122 DONALD NEAL, CALIFORNIA: Reports on his research in California, regarding predation and fawns.

203 NEAL: Continues with testimony regarding statistics and diet study. His testimony has to do with deer management.

247 DAN LAY, BC, CANADA: Been involved in two different cougar studies, discusses Vancouver Island problems with cougar attacking the locals, or being nuisances. His job was to tranquilize and relocate the cats. Supports HB 2584.

300 - Vancouver Island is a prime example of what can happen if you don't control the cougars.

340 LAY: Continues with his testimony, broke that connection with people as a food source.

403 CHAIR FISHER: Comments on accusations by crowd of filibustering.

TAPE 23, B

013 WAYNE PACELE, THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES: Testifies in opposition to HB 2584. Submits Exhibit H and speaks from it, reading various portions to summarize.

Submits a letter from Dr. Logan, regarding a cougar study and public safety issues. (Exhibit V).

098 RICK HOPKINS, PH.D: Testifies to provide expert opinion on the biology of the cougar. 10 year study cited. See Exhibit H.

140 - Had a whole variety of estimates of numbers of cougars - most are bogus. Difference between underestimating and population growth. Not based

on scientific estimate of a trend.

- An attack in Oregon is inevitable. Discusses effect of sport harvest. Uses gas molecule hypothesis - if you throw a bunch of people and a bunch of cougars in a room, eventually the cougars will attack somebody.

200 Discusses population dynamics.

233 Discusses cougar hunting/harvesting program. Measure No direct affect on rate of human attacks by implementing cougar harvesting.

265 Discusses California and various aspects of their cougar situation.

290 Compares Vancouver Island situation with California.

311 HOPKINS: Concludes. Sport harvesting has no appreciable affect on cougar attack situation.

348 REP. UHERBELAU: Questions if it is true that the Humane Societies' purpose is to ban hunting.

362 PACELE: The Humane Society of the U.S. opposes sport hunting "broadly". We have never supported a bill that would outlaw hunting. We are trying, however, to ban and eliminate the most abusive hunting practices.

CHAIR FISHER: REP. CORCORAN is excused.

400 REP. UHERBELAU: Requests clarification of opposition to hunting by Humane Society of the U.S.

401 PACELE: We oppose killing of animals for recreation or for trophy.

409 REP. UHERBELAU: Questions Dr. Hopkins regarding danger to livestock or other wildlife being reduced by sport hunting.

420 HOPKIN: The typical harvest rates (of bear and cougar) throughout the western U.S. probably are insufficient to result in much of a decrease of attacks and livestock losses.

425: REP. UHERBELAU: Questions stability of population over 10 year period.

429 HOPKINS: That is correct, stable over time of study, could change in future.

TAPE 24, B

Discussion about the San Jose Valley area in California continues, regarding population growth and cougar attacks.

50 BUD HEMMONS: There's more to this concept than the use of dogs. This is more than the effects of how you're going to hunt. Testifies in opposition to HB 2584.

110 - States that this is the opportunity to rectify what you did, whether it be done right or wrong.

We welcome a constitutional amendment to give authority to the ODFW that will guarantee the ability to manage and make these regulations.

148 GEORGE HUTCHINSON: My customers want to see as much wildlife as possible. Please do not overturn the Oregon electorate. Testifies in opposition to HB 2584.

178 REP. UHERBELAU: Requests clarification of his testimony regarding control of the cougar and bear status.

183 HUTCHINSON The fish and wild life are exceptionally attentive to the hunters. I have never seen a live cougar, and I have looked. I have seen a few bears. I do not trust the statistics and data that the ODFW provide.

203 CLAUDIA BEAUSOLEIL: Testifies in opposition to HB 2584.

272 BEAUSOLEIL: Brings up the misuse of the treatment of the black bear in West Virginia. I don't care where it's done, that how the houndsmen hunt, no matter where they do the hunt.

336 EVELYN ROETHER: I live in good wild life country. Because of mismanagement, the large animals have dissipated. Testifies in opposition to HB 2584.

399 BILL BOYER: I am the one that had llamas attacked (by a cougar). I also understand that I am the only one that has had an attack. There is really no problem on a large scale here, and hence there is no need for fixing.

Testifies in opposition to HB 2584.

TAPE 25,A

49 BOYER: Continues his testimony

53 CHERYLE YORK: Testifies in support of repeal of Measure 18.

091 DARRYL B. TURNER, GRANTS PASS: Expresses fears of losing his children to a cougar.

103 GREGG CLAPPER, OREGON HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION: Supports the repeal of Measure 18.

140 MONICA BOND: Works on an organic farm, raises llamas. Opposes HB 2584.

190 JIM INCE: Rancher from rural Douglas. Notes that the Bear and Cougar Coalition is a broad-based organization. Reads from prepared testimony. Opposes HB 2584. (Exhibit N)

246 - For the record, states that baits habituate bears to human contact.

296 REP. UHERBELAU: Calls attention to the fact that the witnesses' district voted against Measure 18.

317 INCE: Notes there are lots of houndsmen in Douglas County.

General discussion about repealing existing law and the interests of constituents.  
Note: Rep. Corcoran and Rep. Josi are excused. It is 5:50 PM

400 SCOTT BECKSTEAD, DIRECTOR OF OREGON BEAR & COUGAR COALITION. Speaks against HB 2584. Reads from Exhibit O.

TAPE 26, A

040 REP. THOMPSON: Questions issue of population growth of cougars.

046 BECKSTEAD: Skeptical of studies done and figures provided.

058 REP. THOMPSON: If we hold this over, come back and discuss the data.

080 REP. THOMPSON: Compares seals and sea lion problem on coast with bears and cougars.

087 BECKSTEAD: Two distinct issues, bears and cougars victims of trophy hunters. Not the same with seals.

100 CANDACE ANN COOKE: Opposes passage of HB 2584. Submits Exhibit P.

137 CATHY SUE ANUNSEN, ROGER ANUNSEN: Reads testimony, Exhibit Q.  
Opposes HB 2584.

216 REP. WELSH: Questions Mr. Anunsen if he is a hunter. Negative responses to all questions.

249 ANDREW RODMAN: Submits and reads Exhibit R, opposing passage of HB 2584.

274 CHAIR FISHER: Urges witness to stay to Measure 18 testimony, clarifies that Measure 18 did not address poachers.

330 BARBARA KELLEY, SAVE OUR ECOSYSTEM: Submits Exhibit W. Opposes HB 2584.

395 SALLY MACKLER: Submits Exhibit S, opposing HB 2584.

TAPE 25,B

021 MACKLER: Continues testimony, look at the facts.

050 RJ SIMINGTON: Exhibit T, in opposition to HB 2584.

127 CHAIR FISHER: Closes the Public Hearing on HB 2584

Adjourns the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

GAIL E. BOESCH PAT ZWICK

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

A - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Rep. Bill Markham -- 2 pages  
B - HB 2584, Vote statistics of Measure 18 -- Rep. Bill Fisher -- 2 pages  
C - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Rod Harder, Executive Director, Oregon Sportsmen's Defense Fund, Inc. -- 11 pages  
D - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Todd Molitar, Jerome, ID; Submitted by Staff -- 1 page  
E - Statement On HB 2584 -- Rod Ingram, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife -- 42 pages  
F - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Captain Lindsay A. Ball, Oregon State Police - Fish and Wildlife Division -- 1 page  
G - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Carlises Meslow, The Wildlife Society -- 2 pages  
H - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Wayne Pacelle, The Humane Society of the United States -- 1 page  
I - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Rick Hopkins, Ph.D -- 2 pages  
J - Testimony on HB 2584 -- George Hutchinson -- 1 page  
K - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Daniel and Claudia Beausoleil -- 6 pages  
L - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Evelyn Roether -- 1 page  
M - Testimony on HB 2584 -- William Boyer -- 1 page  
N - Testimony on HB 2584 -- James Ince -- 2 pages  
O - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Scott Beckstead, Director, Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition --3 pages.  
P - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Candace A. Cooke -- 1 page  
Q - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Cathy Sue Anunsen -- 2 pages  
R - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Andrew Rodman -- 1 page  
S - Testimony on HB 2584 -- Sally Mackler -- 5 pages  
T - Testimony on HB 2584 -- R.J. Simington -- 1 page  
U - HB 2584, Committee Packet - Staff Measure Summary and correspondence received prior to the meeting -- Submitted by Staff -- 39 pages