

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) developed the 2006 Oregon Cougar Management Plan (CMP) to guide cougar management in Oregon. ODFW has statutory responsibility to address cougar-human conflict. The CMP addresses human safety, livestock depredation, and conflict with other big game species using proactive, adaptive management strategies. Staff will provide a report evaluating effects of cougar removal on major categories of conflict: human safety/pet concerns, livestock depredation, and big game predation.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Communication with local residents in areas affected by cougar removal actions.
- Questions from interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Annual public meetings to review staff big game hunting and management proposals.
- Annual big game related Commission Meetings (June and October), 2006 – 2009.

ISSUE 1

Evaluation of cougar removal on human safety concerns, livestock damage complaints, and elk cow:calf ratios in Oregon

ANALYSIS

From January 2007 through April, 20 2009, 101 cougars were administratively removed from the three areas at a total cost of \$310,501. Administrative cougar removal did not fully address conflict related to human safety/pet concerns. Administrative cougar removal reduced cougar–livestock conflicts and positively affected elk calf survival. ODFW will continue to monitor Cougar Target Areas to determine the effectiveness of administratively removing cougars.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Informational only. No action requested at this time.

DRAFT MOTION

No action requested at this time.

EFFECTIVE DATE