

# Update on the Oregon Cougar Management Plan Review

**ODFW Commission Meeting  
October 7, 2016  
La Grande, OR**



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## **Presentation Outline**

- **Public Correspondence**
- **Review Update**
- **Updated Timeline**





# April 2016 Commission Meeting

## Invited Stakeholder Group Testimony

- **2 Panels representing hunters, producers, landowners, and cougar advocates**
- **Highlighted topics included impacts of hunting, long-term population viability, use and impact of Target Areas, cougar impacts on game mammals and livestock, and cougar damage and conflict**



# April 2016 Commission Meeting

## ODFW Commission Directives

- Evaluate Plan objectives
- Examine and update Plan sections on adaptive management process and Target Areas using peer-reviewed literature and results to date
- Explore expansion of Target Area management to maintain desired effects
- Examine and identify techniques for improving efficiency of Target Area implementation and reducing associated expenses



# Post Commission Meeting Correspondence

## Participating Stakeholder Groups

- Follow-up conversations in August and September
- Restated and elaborated on previous recommendations

## Additional Communications

- Oregon Forest Industries Council
- US Forest Service
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Oregon Trappers Association
- Impromptu public correspondence
- Government to Government Natural Resource Workgroup  
(*Nov 2016*)



# Plan Review Findings

## Update Warranted

- No rewrite, but instead streamline and update focal sections

## Address Stakeholder Recommendations

## Incorporate new and relevant findings

- Many new scientific publications since 2006, including Oregon-based research



# Updated Timeline

- **Public Testimony**
- **Draft Cougar Management Plan presented for review, public input (August 2017)**
- **Commission adoption of Final Cougar Management Plan (October 2017)**

# Oregon Cougar Management Plan





## Plan Objectives

- **Objective 1**: Manage for a cougar population at or above approximately 3,000 cougars statewide
- **Objective 2**: Manage cougar-human conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities (cougars taken as a result of livestock, human safety/pet complaints)
- **Objective 3**: Manage cougar-human safety/pet conflicts as measured by human safety/pet complaints
- **Objective 4**: Manage cougar-livestock conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities (cougars taken as a result of livestock) and livestock damage complaints.
- **Objective 5**: Manage cougar populations in a manner compatible and consistent with management objectives for other game mammals outlined in ODFW management plans

# Oregon Cougars



## Current Target Areas

Target Area	Purpose	Annual Objective	Administrative Removals 2016
East Umpqua	Reduce livestock depredation	30	25
Interstate	Improve mule deer populations	50	8
Steens	Improve mule deer & BHS populations	10	0
Warner	Improve mule deer populations	5	2

Numbers as of April 16, 2016

- Recovery
- Maintenance?