

## **2009 Update on Oregon Cougar Management Plan**

*April 2009*

Three years into the ill-conceived Oregon Cougar Management Plan, the plan has been responsible for adding almost 100 more cougars to the state's growing body count (as of March 2009). In addition to the increasing number of cougars killed by private hunters every year, government agents set traps and snares and use packs of hounds to immobilize and then shoot 92 more cougars, including 18 kittens. This indiscriminate killing of cougars by the government will continue under the plan until 2011.

Thanks to a bill passed in the 2007 Oregon legislature, private hound hunters exempted from Oregon's ban on hounding cougars have been appointed by the State to join federal government agents in indiscriminately hounding, trapping, and killing cougars in three target areas. This killing is allowed by the Oregon Cougar Management Plan, approved in 2006. In 2007 Oregon sold over 42 thousand cougar tags, which resulted in the largest number of cougars killed by private hunters in the state's history, and an all time high number of cougars in one year of 537. This number exceeds the numbers killed during the bounty days of the 1960s. Since 1994, when Measure 18 banned sport hunting of cougars with dogs, the kill levels have more than doubled.

For data tables on cougar kills in Oregon, see

[http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/cougars\\_mortality\\_trends\\_1992-2008.pdf](http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/cougars_mortality_trends_1992-2008.pdf)