

House Bill 3118

Sponsored by Representative SPRENGER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes State Department of Fish and Wildlife use of appointed agents for purposes of cougar management. Authorizes department assignment of appointed agents to hunt cougars. Exempts appointed agents carrying out assignment from certain hunting requirements, restrictions and prohibitions.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to agents appointed by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 498.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife may appoint persons to act**
6 **as agents of the department for the purpose of managing cougars in accordance with a**
7 **cougar management plan administered by the department. The department shall exercise**
8 **direction and control over the cougar management activities of appointed agents. An ap-**
9 **pointed agent may not engage in other hunting activities while carrying out official duties.**

10 **(2) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall adopt by rule a process and criteria for**
11 **selecting and training persons to act as appointed agents of the department.**

12 **(3) If the department determines that the number of cougars likely to be taken within**
13 **an area through normal hunting activity will not reduce the area cougar population to a level**
14 **consistent with the cougar management plan, the department may assign appointed agents**
15 **to hunt cougars within the area. The department shall provide the appointed agents with**
16 **appropriate credentials and documentation of the assignment. An appointed agent carrying**
17 **out a department assignment under this subsection:**

18 **(a) Is not required to purchase or possess a cougar tag;**

19 **(b) May use dogs to hunt cougars;**

20 **(c) May take multiple cougars within the area to the extent consistent with the cougar**
21 **management plan;**

22 **(d) Shall report results of the cougar hunting and other information as provided by the**
23 **department; and**

24 **(e) Shall dispose of taken cougars as provided by the department.**

25 **(4) Subsection (3) of this section does not prohibit the assignment of appointed agents to**
26 **engage in nonhunting cougar management activities consistent with the cougar management**
27 **plan.**

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.