



**'No American beast has been the subject of so much loose writing or of such wild fables as the cougar'** — Teddy Roosevelt

### Hunting with Hounds

Hunting with hounds is a centuries old tradition in the U.S. and abroad. Many popular breeds, such as beagles, bassets and coon-hounds of all sorts, were originally bred as hunting dogs. Unlike retrievers and pointers, known as "gun dogs" which retrieve and flush prey, hounds track prey through scent, either in the air or on the ground.

When cougar tags were \$50, "the average Joe didn't buy one on the chance he'd run into a cougar" says Dungannon of Oregon Hunters. But now at \$10 you can buy a tag, and if you happen to see a cougar while out hunting, "you can harvest the animal."

The number of cougars killed (or as the

ODFW says "taken") by hunters dropped to 34 in 1994, the year Measure 18 ended hound-ing. The kills shot back up to over 100 in the late 1990s and to almost 300 in 2006 when the SportsPac was introduced and the tag price lowered. By selling 39,000 tags at \$10 a pop, ODFW would reap \$390,000 in tag sales and increase a hunter's possibility of being able to kill a cougar.

"The most efficient and selective method

of hunting cougars is with trained hounds," say ODFW's Dennehy.

Without hounds, a hunter may never see an actual cougar to shoot at, and cougars are shot based only on chance encounters. With hounds, the hunter is able to track the cougar's scent. Traditionally, hunters would have the hounds on leashes or follow their "bay" — the distinct howl hounds make when on the scent. Hunters often refer to this baying as a kind of music.

Dungannon says one benefit to hound hunting is that cougars associate the fear of being chased by baying hounds with humans and thus are more prone to avoiding human contact.

But these days hunters don't just rely on the baying of the hounds; they use radio tracking collars and GPS locating devices.

Once the dogs have located a cougar, they track and chase it until it is treed. Most photos of cougars feature the cat in a tree; this is not because the cougars live in trees, but because the only time hunters and photographers can capture this elusive animal is when it is treed.

Once a cougar is quietly sitting in the tree, it is fairly easy for most hunters to shoot it down.

### Sexing a Cougar

What isn't easy is to assess the gender of the cougar.

As anyone who has ever tried to guess the

gender of a housecat knows, divining a cat's gender at a distance is almost impossible. The average hunter is not able to tell the gender of a cougar that is 30 feet up in a tree.

"Females are pregnant or raising their young for 70% of their lives," says Rick Hopkins.

According to Hopkins, if a female that had cougar cubs under six months of age is killed, "the cubs will certainly die." Cubs from six to 12 months of age "have a small percentage of survival." Cubs whose mothers die when the cubs are 12-18 months old will likely survive "but be stressed."

Cougar cubs normally stay with their mothers until they are 16 to 24 months of age. If a mother dies before cubs are ready to go out on their own, cubs don't learn all they need to know about hunting behaviors.

Some researchers speculate that these untrained cubs may actually cause more problems. Hunting in Washington state led to more cougars and cougar complaints, according to an article in *Science Magazine*.

### Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

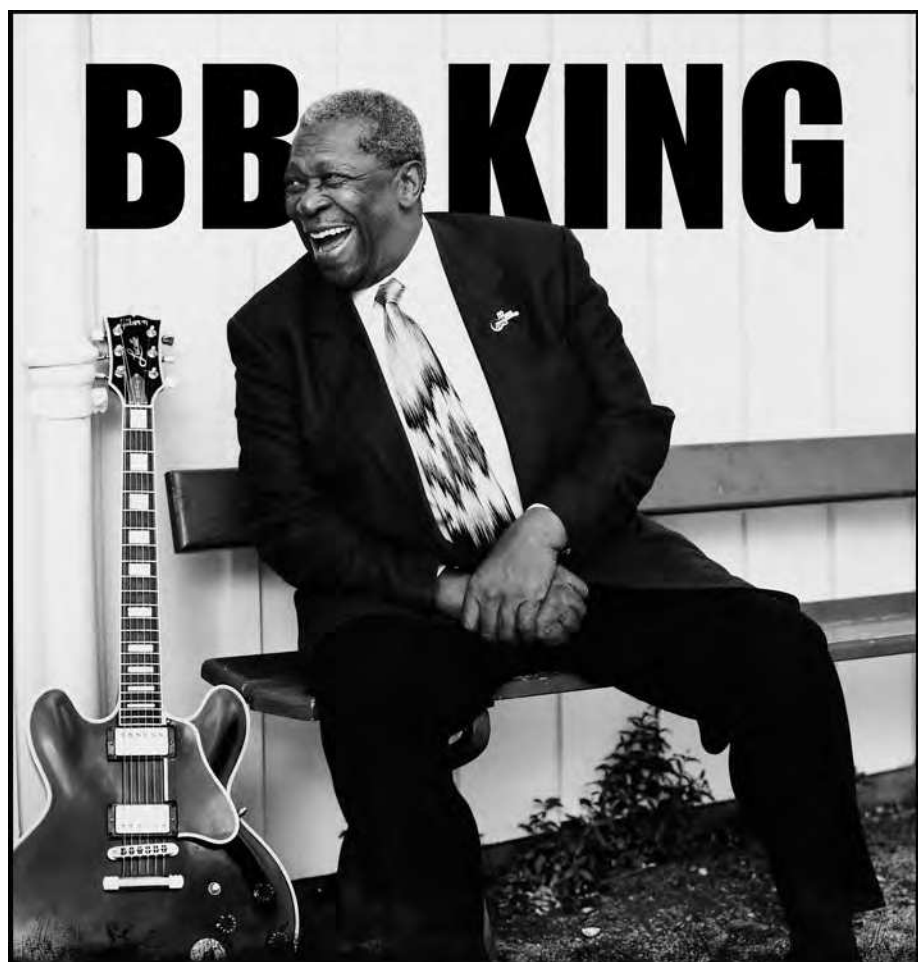
If cougars are so elusive that hounds are necessary for their management, then why are they a problem in Oregon?

According to Fahy, they are not a problem at all.



**'It's so shameful, so outrageous that when they know the difference they use these numbers to scare people.'** — Brooks Fahy, Predator Defense

# BB KING



**October 10th • 7:30pm**  
**Hult Center for the Performing Arts • Eugene, Oregon**

---

Tickets go on sale Friday July 20th - 12:00 Noon

---

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:**  
 Hult Center Box Office • By Phone: 541.682.5000 • On Line: [www.hultcenter.org](http://www.hultcenter.org)  
 In the EMU University Ticket Office

## WELLNESS CENTERED DENTISTRY

300 COUNTRY CLUB RD., STE. 290 • EUGENE, OR 97401 • (541) 868-2008



**A Holistic Approach to Dentistry**

Wellness Centered Dentistry is dedicated to providing individual care for individual people. It is our vision to develop lasting relationships with every member of our practice. Call today and experience the extraordinary people and unique setting that only Wellness Centered Dentistry can provide.

**(541) 868-2008**

**"Because the Mouth Bone is Connected to the Body Bone"**

# Lets all go Skinny Dipping

Looking for a place to cool off? Try us for a Fun Filled FREE Day



## The Willamettans

A clothing optional RV Resort

**Open to the public**

**July 21st, 10-4**

Call (541) 933-2809 [www.willamettans.com](http://www.willamettans.com)

Affiliated with American Association for Nude Recreation  
 1-800-TRY NUDE -[www.aanr.com](http://www.aanr.com)

Swimming pool  
 Tennis courts  
 Horseshoes  
 Camping or rentals