



Umpqua Watersheds, in addition to the ranchers.

When established adult cougars are killed by government officials, it skews the population towards younger cats “more often implicated in conflict with domestic animals,” said goat rancher Michael Moss, one of the plaintiffs.

It is illegal to kill spotted cougar kittens or to kill nursing female cougars, but it is difficult to tell if a cougar has kittens once she has been treed, say cougar advocates.

ODFW estimates the cougar population in Oregon to be at 5,100 and wants to bring the number down to 3,000. A 2006 study in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* says cougar populations in the Pacific Northwest are already declining.

The cougar quota for the 2007 hunting season was set at 777 kills, according to ODFW. As of Dec. 31, 509 cougars have been killed, but news reports indicate the number has gone up since then. — *Camilla Mortensen*

CLIMATE CHANGE A SECURITY THREAT?

A new report called, “An Uncertain Future: Law Enforcement, National Security and Climate Change,” warns that climate change could lead to societal breakdown and civil unrest in the world’s wealthiest countries, including the United States.

The report comes from the Oxford Research Group, an independent English organization working for “a sustainable approach to security for the UK and the world.” The research group reports, “Climate change can no longer be considered solely as an environmental issue” and warns that the physical affects of climate change will lead to “civil unrest, intercommunal violence, and international instability.”

The report claims that while governments are focusing on international threats, the actual “threats” may come from within. It says, “If responses to the aftermath of natural disasters are inadequate, then people may begin to lose confidence in the government’s ability to protect them.”

The report calls for “Western governments to overhaul their approach to security and disaster planning” and calls for a focus on preventative rather than reactive strategies.

The report predicts that people will increase their protests against polluting companies and perceived government inaction. It specifically cites the testimony of James F. Jarboe, the FBI’s domestic terrorism section chief on “ecoterrorism” and arsons by the Earth and Animal Liberation Fronts. However, report author Chris Abbot told the *Toronto Star*, “The term ecoterrorism is applied very loosely, and it is a dangerous game.” — *Camilla Mortensen*

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WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- 3,941 U.S. troops killed* (3,923)
- 28,870 U.S. troops injured* (28,870)
- 135 U.S. military suicides* (135)
- 307 coalition troops killed** (307)
- 933 contractors killed (accurate updates NA)
- 88,044 to one million Iraqi civilians killed*** (88,004)
- \$487.7 billion cost of war (\$485.7 billion)
- \$138.7 million cost to Eugene taxpayers (\$138.1 million)

* through Jan. 30, 2008; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly

** estimate; source: icasualties.org

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 to one million