



Cats Aren't Trophies

Protecting Colorado's mountain lions, bobcats & lynx

CATs is a diverse statewide coalition promoting a ballot measure to ban trophy hunting of mountain lions and commercial fur trapping of bobcats in Colorado. Lynx are included as a rare wild cat species of Colorado because they are inadvertently injured and killed in baited bobcat traps or chased and attacked by packs of dogs set loose after lions or bobcats.

Trophy hunting of mountain lions and bobcats is cruel and unsporting — a highly commercial, high-tech head-hunting exercise that doesn't produce edible meat or sound wildlife management outcomes, but only orphaned cubs and social chaos among the surviving big cats.

Holiday Greetings from the frontlines of the CATs campaign!

CATs is entering the holidays celebrating a modest but meaningful victory for Colorado's mountain lions! At its most recent meeting, the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission banned the use of electronic calls for mountain lion trophy hunting. While this win gives cause to celebrate while we gather with loved ones, it also serves as a reminder that we still have a long way to go to protect Colorado's big cats.

The holidays are the beginning of the Colorado mountain lion trophy hunting and bobcat trapping seasons in Colorado. And December also marks the anniversary of the death of the beloved and highly adaptable P-22, a California mountain lion who captured the heart of a nation with an iconic photograph against the backdrop of the Hollywood sign. CATs members wrote a beautiful tribute to him that was published in national news outlets; you will find links to those in the Media section below.

As the writers noted, this is a time to honor P-22 and be inspired by the love and appreciation for the "Brad Pitt" of mountain lions. Once people understand that lions are individuals, then we trust they'll extend their compassionate instincts to all lions and support policies to stop cruel and unsporting exploitation of these magnificent creatures. We hope his memory serves as motivation to protect the extended family of lions throughout the West, including Colorado!



Credit: National Park Service

Our First Webinar Draws 400

On December 13, CATs held its first webinar to inform and inspire Coloradans to get boots on the ground next month and start gathering signatures for the 2024 ballot measure. We had **nearly 400 people sign up** from across the state and the feedback was indeed inspirational!

Here is a smattering of some of the inspiring chat comments from attendees who are ready to go!

"I will commit to gathering signatures.... I live in Fruita."

"We can do it! We WILL do it."

"I shared this link with about 10 friends I believe will carry a petition.... We can do it!!"

You may view it here on the [CATs YouTube Channel](#).

A tremendous thank you goes out to Wayne Pacelle, Pat Craig, Carole Baskin, Lauren Uram and Deanna Meyer for being panelists and/or working behind the scenes. Many people wanted to have detailed information on how to be effective. Many of these questions were answered in our webinar, and we have created a resource folder, which includes a circulator packet outlining the details for people who would like to volunteer to collect signatures. Access these documents by [clicking HERE](#).

Updates

Currently, CATs has filed two very similar initiatives in Colorado, Initiative 91 and Initiative 101, to protect mountain lions, bobcats, and Canada lynx. We've done so to protect our interest, in the off chance that the trophy hunters' legal challenge to the first measure before the Colorado Supreme Court succeeds. You can access the language for both in our [Volunteer Resources folder](#). We are defending Initiative 91 in the Colorado State Supreme Court this month, then attending Colorado Title Board hearings for Initiative 101 on December 20th and January 3rd. We will keep you up to date as we advance through the initiative process.

Featured CATs Media

OPINION COLUMNS

One year after P-22's death, let us recommit to saving mountain lions across the nation.

[Los Angeles Daily News](#) | [Los Alamos Daily Post](#) | [San Gabriel Tribune](#) | [Whittier Daily News](#) | [Pasadena Star News](#) | Dec. 15-16, 2023

Excerpt: "The protections demanded by Angelenos for P-22 provide much-needed inspiration for those of us fighting to protect P-22's extended family throughout the American West. ... Mountain lions are being treated with the most egregious disrespect and cruelty seen since the wildlife persecution era, more than a century ago. ... In contrast, there is great hope in Colorado as citizens of that state are looking to follow in California's footsteps by banning trophy hunting of its mountain lions (as well as trapping bobcats) with a 2024 ballot measure called Cats Aren't Trophies (catsarentrophies.org)."

Trophy hunting that kills hundreds of Colorado mountain lions every year should be banned

[The Colorado Sun](#) | Dec. 9, 2023

Excerpt: "As we head into (the holidays), we will be far removed from the fear and loss that lions experience. But their pain and suffering is real. The CATs campaign reminds us of a moral opportunity before us. You have a chance to join us, signing or circulating a petition to qualify this ballot measure and then working with your neighbors and friends to bring relief to animals who just want to be left alone as nature intended."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect Mountain lions

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) | Dec. 17, 2023

Excerpt: "In the name of P-22, we must keep fighting to end the cruel and unnecessary persecution of sentient beings who are intrinsically and ecologically valuable."

Mountain lions key to solution for Chronic Wasting Disease

[Greeley Tribune](#) | [Times-Call](#) | [Daily Camera](#) | [Daily Sentinel Grand Junction](#) | Dec. 3-Dec. 12, 2023

Excerpt: "Protecting lions is our best chance to help slow the rapid spread of CWD and protect human health and wildlife. Boosting or restoring predator populations would undoubtedly help improve deer numbers and healthy herds.... As one of the most misunderstood and critical animals, it's time we find some gratitude this holiday season for these awesome predators who bring vast ecological and health benefits to this world because it's clearly in their nature."

New Endorsements

Welcome to Roaring Fork Audubon, Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, Eco-Integrity Alliance, and Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center!

Organizations may endorse by going online and using the form [Endorsements | Cats Aren't Trophies \(catsarentrophies.org\)](#)

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