



Dear Friend,

We are fighting every day to reach millions of Colorado voters to tell them about the cruel, unsporting killing of mountain lions and bobcats for their heads, hides, and beautiful fur. We are working to promote “YES” on Prop 127 and point to the future of humane and sensible management of native cats in the state.

Native wild cats picked up support from one of the most trusted voices in American wildlife management this week. That’s former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe who made his endorsement known in opinion pieces across Colorado.

“Today, I am one more wildlife professional, and hunter, proudly adding my name and voice in support of Proposition 127 — Cats Aren’t Trophies,” **Ashe said.**

Ashe has more than four decades experience in the field of wildlife management and conservation. He served for 22 years at the wildlife agency, as leader of America’s 570-unit National Wildlife Refuge System, the world’s largest system of lands and waters dedicated to wildlife conservation, at nearly 1 billion acres.

“Killing 500 lions, every year, in Colorado is not simply unscientific and unethical, it is interrupting their vital work as a bulwark against CWD,” Ashe said, referring to the scourge of Chronic Wasting Disease, which is our biggest threat to healthy deer and elk populations, as well as deer and elk hunting today in Colorado and the West.

Ashe is a lifelong hunter, and says the methods used to hound and tree mountain lions and bobcats violates a foundational value of ‘fair chase’ and diminishes as well as harms the vital role of mountain lions in checking the spread of CWD that affects 42 of Colorado’s 51 deer herds and 17 of 42 elk herds with an always fatal brain-wasting disease that has no cure.

“There is good science that lions will selectively prey on CWD-infected animals, and that makes sense, because infected animals would be weaker and easier to kill. And what we can observe is that where there are no lions, there are higher rates of CWD-infected animals, and where there are lions, there are low levels of CWD infection, or none at all.”

Ashe joins Colorado’s key leader in wildlife management Elaine Leslie, former Chief of Biological Resources at National Park Service, a resident of Durango, a city where 25% of its population signed the petition to put Prop 127 on the ballot.

Leslie has done extensive studies on mountain lions, and joined 21 other wildlife scientists with a combined experience of more than a century to also enthusiastically endorse Prop 127 last week. They did so in a letter that explained that mountain lions, according to our best rigorous science, have not ever needed to be managed through hunting programs like Colorado's for population control, because they are limited to vast territories, and nature will never allow for too many lions on the landscape.

“Mountain lion trophy hunting is unnecessary to manage stable mountain lion populations and serves no management purpose,” wrote the cadre of wildlife scientists. They note that wild cats evolved in Colorado's natural ecosystems and maintain stable populations with any need of human culling or mass killing.

The added that Colorado's current trophy hunting program “may also exacerbate human-lion conflicts by removing unoffending animals from the ecosystem, leaving the door open to younger cats who are more likely to be involved in conflict.”

We have great arguments. But now we must have the resources to deliver them to 4.5 million Colorado voters.

Please donate generously today. We have just 45 days until the election is over, and just three weeks until tens of thousands of ballots will be cast.

Will you donate today to help our organization fight for bobcats, mountain lions and other animals?

*For the cats,
Samantha Miller
Cats Aren't Trophies, Campaign Manager*