

Daily Camera

Opinion: Julie Marshall: Prop 127 is for wildlife – and the sake of our morality

By [Daily Camera guest opinion](#) | openforum@dailycamera.com | Boulder Daily Camera

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By Julie Marshall

As dark money flows in to fight Prop 127, we must take stock of who smartly supports the “yes” vote and funds the measure, and who is on the wrong, dark ugly side of cruelty and environmental harm to our balance and respect of nature.

A billionaire and avid trophy hunter — his study filled with lion, elephant and rhino body parts on the wall — just added more late hour cash to the pile to fight against the citizens for wildlife that is Prop 127.

Trophy hunters have no shame, but they do have a ton of money.

As of Oct. 28, the opposition received two donations totaling \$870,937 from Building America’s Future, a [national political nonprofit organization](#) based in Washington D.C. An October [New York Times article](#) linked the group to

Republican donors behind campaign ads attacking presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

It also received \$75,000 from Safari Club International, a national trophy hunting rights organization with over 50,000 members. Multiple chapters of this group have also [donated to Colorado's Wildlife Deserve Better campaign](#) against the measure, which is trying to confuse voters with its massive signs in our county. They tell voters who want to vote "yes," to do otherwise.

Dark money is tied to a Facebook ad that was created on Oct. 15 and features Dan Prenzlou, the former director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. He's touting a ridiculous flyer showing lions as crazy menaces attacking children. Shame on him.

Wild cats are not demons and have no desire to kill you and your children. The truth is that mountain lions are beautiful, shy and elusive. They purr. They nurture their young and are playful. They are just not that into us. Mountain lions also deserve respect. They are the [cleansers of environmental disease](#) of the forest; they are the overseers to keep our deer, elk and ecosystems healthy and alive.

In contrast, the [majority of outspoken sitting CPW Wildlife Commissioners](#) say "yes" on Prop 127. And funding led by the Weld County-based The Wild Animal Sanctuary, founded by Boulder's own Pat Craig, at \$996,000. A "yes" comes from [22 expert biologists and wildlife scientists](#) who actually study lions and bobcats, the [former director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife](#), a former [chief biologist for National Park Service](#), and [119 veterinarians](#) including in Boulder County, who say animal fighting is wrong and to protect dogs and cats.

It's become a tale of the power of good-natured citizens vs. those who appear to bring a particular brand of hatred for nature.

On the side of good is the [Boulder Daily Camera endorsement](#). And our hometown former [U.S. Sen. Mark Udall](#), also we know the [Boulder Progressives](#), and our founding mothers and fathers of Boulder stand with them, including Ruth Wright, and a massively long list of former City Council public servants who have served Boulder County for more than 100 years collectively. County Commissioner Claire Levy has even penned letters to several constituents to promote her "yes" vote. Sen. Sonya Jaquez Lewis joins our many local lawmakers. Too many to list here.

Wildlife groups that usually do not get involved in politics have spoken a resounding "yes," such as Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and The Wild Animal Sanctuary. Also the state chapter of the Sierra Club, and six Audubon Societies, and the Humane Society of Boulder Valley, to name a few hometown heroes. [More than 100](#) organizations for wildlife are saying to vote "yes," and these are the experts. The opposition says to let science dictate this issue, well guess what? [Prop 127 has the science and support from our wildlife agency policymakers.](#)

Prop 127 is bipartisan, with Republican Congressman Tom Tancredo endorsing it.

Conservatives, [hunters](#), [ranchers](#) and scientists endorse Prop 127. There was a terrific article in the Post this week by [retired U.S. Army colonel](#) who says "yes." The Grand Junction Sentinel editorial board wrote that unethical and unscientific trophy hunting and fur trapping need to go dark, along with their money.

We unite under Prop 127, together, positively, because trophy hunters promote a dark brand of hate in order to justify their lust to kill lions in the cruelest ways. They send out dogs, who get hurt, break bones and backs, but they don't care, they have surplus dogs.

Trophy hunters are weak. They need to selfishly dominate and kill the biggest cat just to sell this fake legend of the "hunt" that is just walking a few steps from the car to shoot a poor defenseless animal out of a tree.

This is not hunting.

They also want to sell our beautiful bobcats, their skinned fur to make more cash for themselves. They take pleasure in choking an animal for 3 minutes, or drowning her, or bludgeoning her over the head.

This is not hunting.

But we know the difference between the ethical hunting of our grandfathers, and this disgusting bloodsport. We can see them for who they are. We cannot let them or their brand of hatred for nature win.

We know that lions and bobcats serve our healthy forests and ecosystems, the balance of nature.

Voting wraps up soon, and many more voters will cast their ballots between now and then.

This is a Boulder County yes and a yes for the state of Colorado. It is for wildlife, and the sake of our morality.

Vote "yes" on Prop 127!

Julie Marshall is a former opinion editor for the Boulder Daily Camera. She works as Public Relations Director for Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy, two of 100-plus organizations now endorsing [Prop 127, Cats Aren't Trophies](#).