



We are fighting in the state capitol for fairness for wildlife

Dear Friend of Cats Aren't Trophies,

During the Prop 127 campaign, we heard a refrain from key personnel at Colorado Parks and Wildlife that a Colorado statute creates a mandate to hunt mountain lions and bobcats.

We looked at the wildlife laws, and we found a vague, overreaching statement in law that “hunting, fishing, and trapping shall be used to effect wildlife harvests.”

That’s not just a cumbersome statement. It’s also archaic. And it doesn’t reflect the values of Coloradans. It doesn’t even reflect the actual way wildlife is managed today in our state.

The suggestion that species must be hunted for sport or trophies is an anachronism. And let’s be clear, there are dozens of species not hunted at all in Colorado — from raptors to songbirds to a wide range of mammals. But you wouldn’t know that if you read the statement in Colorado statute!

We must modernize the legal framework with respect to the treatment of wildlife. The existing law doesn’t reflect the Colorado of today.

The views and values of all Coloradans count.

We believe that state decision-makers — whether they are Colorado Wildlife commissioners, state legislators, or citizens deciding issues directly — should be guided by values related to animal welfare, ecological concerns, and respect for science.

We are now backing state legislation in Denver, [HB 1258](#), led by Rep. Tammy Story, that will eliminate the “hunting mandate” and replace it with an imperative for decision-makers to factor a broad set of values as they make future decisions about wildlife treatment and policy in the state.

Here’s why:

- It’s wrong for the state to have a “hunting mandate” when in fact dozens of species aren’t hunted at all.
- We don’t want a mandate that dictates that mountain lions and bobcats must be hunted just because the law says so. That’s for commissioners, experts, and the people to decide.

- Colorado's wildlife managers should not be force-fed a directive that reflects the values of an earlier era.

Today, I hope you'll send a letter to the Agriculture Committee in favor of this legislation. We've made that task easy for you.

We've drafted a sample letter to get you started. All you have to do is enter your address, review and edit the letter as you wish, and hit send. It will go to committee members and you'll register your opinion with them that you want to modernize our Colorado statutes governing how we treat and manage wildlife.

HB 1258 doesn't ban hunting of any species; it just eliminates the hunting mandate in the law and says that hunting *may* occur as long as it's "in accordance with the best available wildlife and ecological science to benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and all Coloradans."

It's past due to modernize the language in the law. HB 1258 is language that hunters, non-hunters, ecologists, ranchers, and others can agree establishes a fair framework to approach decision-making for wildlife management policy in the state.

This hunting mandate rigs the system in favor of one user group. All Coloradans have a stake in wildlife policy.

Today, please use this legislative contact tool to tell committee members that they must support HB 1258.

We are better together.

Please donate to protect Colorado's native cats!

For the cats,
Julie Marshall
Communications Director