



## **New Study by CSU Shows People Do Not Support Commercial Trapping of Bobcats or Hounding of Lions**

*Dear Friend of Cats Aren't Trophies,*

A [new study by Colorado State University's Animal-Human Policy Center](#) confirms what we knew from our work on the ground on Prop 127: voters rejected Prop 127 not because they support trophy hunting and commercial trapping of mountain lions and bobcats, but rather because they wanted to hear more from Colorado Parks and Wildlife on the issue.

This report is public and titled, "Colorado Voter Perspectives on an Initiative to Ban Hunting and Trapping of Mountain Lions, Bobcat and Lynx and can be found here: [AHPC Colorado Voter Perspectives on Prop 127.pdf – Google Drive](#)

In short, the people of Colorado want more wildlife protection reforms, but they prefer that the decision is made by the CPW and the Colorado Wildlife Commission. Or perhaps, the state Legislature, with input from CPW.

That's exactly why we've been focused on going to the Colorado Wildlife Commission and to state lawmakers to seek reform and stop grossly inhumane and unsporting and morally bankrupt killing practices.

Earlier this month, we put a bill in front of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee that would manage predators with science, not bias toward those who enjoy trophy and commercial killing of these magnificent animals. The committee, sadly, didn't give us a fair hearing. It killed the bill 10-3, based on fake cries from the extreme anti-predator coalition – the same group that fought Prop 127 with [dark money from billionaire trophy hunters](#).

We've said all along that the wildlife management system is rigged. It's not only been inordinately controlled by trophy hunting and trapping interests for decades. But there is even language in Colorado statute that suggests that there is a hunting mandate in the law.

That's exactly why we went to the people.

In August 2024, CSU faculty reported that 78% of Coloradans disapprove of trophy hunting of mountain lions, while a staggering 88% oppose the use of dogs in facilitating the hunt. Data from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, for 2022, reveal that 97% of successful lion kills come with the aid of dogs.

But our opponents, with their millions of dollars, had a deceptive slogan and said the only decision-maker on wildlife issues should be CPW. That's awfully convenient of them given that CPW has been running a trophy hunting and commercial trapping program for decades!

### **We Are Heeding Wishes of Voters**

This year, we have turned our CATs coalition loose into the halls of Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission meetings. We are reminding them that commercial trapping and trophy hunting of our native cats violates the norms of wildlife management and is at odds with the basic values of the public.

What we are doing is building a record to show — again — how we exhausted all angles of the legislative process and the decision-making channels offered through the Colorado Wildlife Commission.

We are pointing out that random killing of lions by trophy hunters does not qualify as wildlife science or wildlife management. It's just random killing, and there is a scientific consensus that these apex predators do not need and do not require people to make vicious assaults on them.

We are telling them the truth: that the system is rigged to benefit certain user groups, specifically the people who want to kill cats for their heads and hides.

And they kill them by unsporting and inhumane means, chasing them with dogs and capturing them in traps that give them their first taste of confinement in this world.

We still believe that we can change the system with your participation. If the trophy hunters rigged the system over the decades, we can “unrig” the system.

And if it takes too long, then Colorado's constitution gives power to the people, not a handful of political appointees at the Colorado Wildlife Commission.

### **Ending Fur Trapping, and Hounding Would Bring CATs a Big Win**

The CSU study clearly shows that a future ballot measure that is more narrowly tailored to focus on ending commercial fur trapping, and/or ending the hounding of mountain lions and bobcats (chasing wildlife into trees just to kill them for no good reason) would be a winner in the next election.

This is because Colorado has never approved of sending packs of dogs out to harass wildlife, making animals easy targets to kill. We know this because voters banned hounding bears in 1992. Resoundingly with a two-thirds majority vote.

That same measure also banned baiting bears. Colorado does not approve of baiting animals for easy shooting, either. And just four years later, they wanted to stop commercial trapping of fur-bearing animals with inhumane and indiscriminate traps.

The earlier study is titled “Public Perspectives on hunting mountain lions and black bears in Colorado,” by authors [Benjamin Ghasemi](#), [Rebecca Niemiec](#), and [Kevin R. Crooks](#), and was published Aug. 22, 2024, in the [Society for Conservation Biology](#).

*The report shows:*

- 77.9% of citizens disapprove of hunting mountain lions for trophies
- 80.6% of citizens disapprove of hunting mountain lions for a hide or fur
- 62.7% of citizens disapprove of recreational hunting of mountain lions
- 88.2% of citizens disapprove of hunting mountain lions using dogs

I want to thank CSU and its researchers for digging in deep and offering the public these important data points about public attitudes toward wildlife.

We have overwhelming data that CATs is on the right side of wildlife policy and that our proposals are in the mainstream.

But nothing meaningful has ever been easy. That’s why we need you to stick with us.

For Colorado. And for these animals who are terrorized by people who don’t care about their well-being in any way.

Please reach out to me and get involved! We need you now more than ever.

**We are better together.**

**Please donate to protect Colorado’s native cats!**

For the cats,  
Julie Marshall  
Communications Director