



Predators Won the Day at CPW January meetings. Two Significant Wins for Wildlife!

Dear Friend of Cats Aren't Trophies,

Prop 127 failed in the November elections, but it's clear that voters didn't thumb their nose at the idea of protecting big cats. Rather, they wanted us to take the matter to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and to the decision-makers at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission.

We listened. And we are pursuing reform through that channel with vigor.

Already we are seeing a new atmosphere at the Commission, with more animal-welfare advocates and fair-chase hunters participating in the public deliberations about policy.

On Jan. 8 and 9 CATs volunteers flooded the CPW Hunter Education Building for a commissioner meeting with mountain lions, bobcat commercial fur trapping and wolves on the agenda.

I sat next to Brenda Lee of Colorado Bear Coalition, who remarked, "I have never seen this room so packed with people."

169 people signed up to testify in person or virtually. We far outnumbered the trophy hunters of lions, fur trappers and wolf haters.

There were prepared with science, reason, and purpose.

One by one, CATs supporters spoke to support commissioners Jack Murphy and Jessica Beaulieu as they are wrongly being sued by Safari Club for an opinion piece calling to vote YES on Prop 127.

It was clear that the commissioners appreciated the show of support. We are standing up to the bullies in the trophy hunting clan, and the commissioners now see they've got support to more freely express their views.

Our testimony during two long days was compelling, backed with science, calling for an end to chasing mountain lions with dog packs for easy shooting. We called to end commercial fur trapping done with baiting and cruel choking to death of bobcats.

We collectively painted a picture of serious problems needing reform, such as the agency's consistent failure to stop violations of its own policies of fair chase, guaranteed kills and masses of deaths of female lions, which orphans kittens.

We called on our commissioners to do the right thing and put wildlife first.

The biggest win of the day was when CATs backers stood with wolf advocates to vote down a petition by big Ag to delay wolf restoration indefinitely. The show by anti-predator zealots failed to impress. The mission for wolves, and the will of the people won.

The voting down of the petition was almost unanimous, except for the commissioner named to represent hunting outfitters.

I want to thank Delia Malone and all the wolf leaders and advocates for herding us CATs to help the wolves! It was an auspicious day indeed! I am thrilled by this alliance forged!

I mostly wanted to thank every single one of you CATs members and also for writing the most exquisite speeches as well as sending in letters.

We are making progress!

We are a true coalition, with all voices in unison walking together. And building partnerships. Still many members of CATs didn't directly participate. But now that you see that so many others did, it is time to join us. Get engaged. This fight for our native cats is engaged, and it's by no means over.

We are better together.

As I look back as well as ahead, I see hope.

The infrastructure we have built is incredible and offers a springboard for swift and impactful change, as well as long term change.

Look for more multi-media content from us. We are ramping up this campaign.

Also here is my oped that ran in the Daily Camera before the meeting, so grateful the editors ran it! **Daily Camera guest opinion**

Please donate to protect Colorado's native cats!

For the cats,
Julie Marshall
Communications Director