

Mountain Lion Hunting and Management Communications

Key Messages

- Science as the basis for wildlife management decisions is a core tenet of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. A hunting ban runs counter to science.
 - Mountain lion populations are not biologically threatened. They range from Northern Canada to the southern extent of South America, the largest latitudinal range of any mammal in the Western Hemisphere.
 - Likewise, bobcats are widespread across the U.S. and are not biologically threatened. They are the most common North American wild cat species.
- This hunting ban is pushed by out-of-state, animal rights extremists. It replaces Colorado's time-proven, successful, science-based wildlife management with ballot box biology and robs countless Coloradans of their outdoor heritage.
- Wildlife management is a science. When we alter the management of one species, it affects other wildlife species in the ecosystem. To avoid unintended consequences for people and other species, decisions should be based on science and driven by wildlife professionals.

Talking Points

- If a ban passes, we can't manage mountain lion and bobcat populations with regulated hunting and trapping, which may impact other wildlife populations like deer and elk, and the hunting opportunities they provide us.
- Wildlife management experts should be the ones making decisions on wildlife management, not the public or politicians.
- According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the estimated statewide population size of independent lions (not including kittens) is around 3,800-4,400 and has grown in Colorado since being classified as big game in 1965. Data suggests that Colorado's lion population is strong and lions are abundant in appropriate habitat.
- Bobcats are widespread across Colorado. CPW assesses 5 different metrics each year to make sure bobcat populations are stable and healthy. These metrics suggest Colorado's bobcat populations are stable and may be increasing in some areas. The minimum U.S. range-wide population estimate is between 1.4 and 2.6 million bobcats.
- CPW already has strong regulations in place to ensure a healthy mountain lion population, including harvest limits and hunter reporting and inspection requirements.
- The hunting of mountain lions and bobcats is about hunting for meat and smart wildlife management, NOT hunting for a trophy.
- Colorado law requires that all edible portions of a harvested mountain lion be prepared properly for human consumption to ensure that no part of the animal is going to unnecessary waste.
- The money that hunters and anglers spend on licenses goes directly back to CPW to fund wildlife management, education, law enforcement and other programs that benefit all wildlife species and ecosystems in the state.
- The North American Model is based on the public trust doctrine and conserving wildlife for future generations. Species recovered under the management tenants of the model

include many species that are common today. Recently we have helped support the recovery of species like peregrine falcon, Canada lynx, greater prairie chickens and bald eagles.

- Hunters and anglers support wildlife management across Colorado in a number of ways: habitat enhancement and land conservation, engagement in critical land use issues, mentoring, providing data for wildlife management, assisting law enforcement by reporting poachers, etc.
- A campaign composed of wildlife researchers, scientists, and concerned members of your community is up and running and ready to defeat any ballot measure that is brought forth, to ensure that a hunting ban NEVER occurs in Colorado.