



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

HB251258

1 message

cvercell4 <cvercell4@comcast.net>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Wed, Mar 5, 2025 at 9:03 PM

Both my husband Robert Jonardi and I are respectfully asking you to Please support this important wildlife bill..

Thank you ,

Christine vercellino
Robert Jonardi

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

written testimony in support of HB25-1258

1 message

Rose Pray <rwpray@gmail.com>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov

Sat, Mar 1, 2025 at 2:44 PM

My name is _Rose Pray_____, my address is _422 Idlewild Dr_____, my city is
__Dillon_____. I'm am contacting you to ask that you **please support HB25-1258**, the Scientific
Wildlife Management Bill. Colorado Parks and Wildlife hires biologists and they should be allowed
to make decisions based on their best available science, and not on the demands from hunters,
ranchers, outfitters and trappers.

Thank you for your service.

Rose Pray



Written Testimony/ HB25-1258

1 message

Walt Kramarz <waltkra1@yahoo.com>

Wed, Mar 5, 2025 at 11:48 PM

To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

You first need to know that your legislative webpage has no functioning "submit" button for citizens who wish to submit written testimony. So I am emailing it to this committee address, in the hope that my testimony will be read, in full, and reflected upon, with open minds and without predetermination and prejudice.

My name is Walter Kramarz. P.O. Box 21612, Boulder, CO. Colorado taxpayer, resident, and property owner.

My property is montane zone NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat, herbicide and pesticide-free, bordering Roosevelt NF, and traversed by wildlife including bobcat, moose, mule deer, short-tailed weasel, raccoon, fox and pine squirrels, nuttall's cottontails, and successful nesting home to Cordilleran Flycatchers, Violet Green Swallows, Tree Swallows, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, and House Wrens, among many others.

It is surreal that in the year 2025, with the annihilation of nature painfully obvious to all but the most ignorant or oblivious, that we should have to urge representatives to mandate utilizing "best available wildlife and ecological science to adopt rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and **all Coloradans**" -- not dictated only by bloodsport enthusiasts.

But here we are.

So I'm asking you to vote "Yes" on HB25-1258.

No one considering this issue today can remotely imagine the dazzling, dizzying diversity and abundance of wildlife that thrived in what is now Colorado, for 100,000 generations.

Massive herds of Plains Elk and Bison stretching in mass as far as the human eye could see. Thundering Bighorn Sheep herds from the tundra to the plains plateaus.

"The American Serengeti," right here.

Rivers and streams churning with large native fish.

Migratory and resident songbirds likely in the billions.

Grizzlies, wolves, cougars, bobcats, lynx, fox, and birds of prey providing the only "wildlife management" needed here for the last 500,000 years.

All of this remained largely intact until about when your great grandmother or grandfather was born. Not ancient history.

There were people living here then as well. But they viewed themselves as part of that system, rather than through a supremacist lens.

But then intruded an arrogant and destructive mindset that has annihilated virtually all of it, in a virtual blink of an eye.

What surviving wildlife populations we see around us now, even in Colorado's "wild" areas, is diminished, degraded, and defiled, from those baseline populations of not that long ago.

Yes, pitiful wildlife population remnants remain. Vestiges of what once was.

And even those pitiful remnants constantly face relentless further destruction, reduction, and eradication.

Streams now saturated with forever chemicals, hormones, and micro plastics, bioaccumulating in the few pathetic populations of remaining fish, and then up the food chain. We're all currently eating the equivalent of a credit card's weight in microplastics each week.

Insect populations nosediving.

Our spectacular birds of prey, dropping dead from rodenticide and lead poisoning, again inflicted on them by that same arrogant, ignorant, violent mindset.

Your brain is now approximately 0.5% plastic. Think about that. While you still can think.

Glyphosate and Roundup annihilating the soil biomes, insects and invertebrates, and then up the food chain, poisoning to death our few remaining songbirds.

Some songbird populations have been reduced by 70% since 1970, and neotropical migrants in Colorado, such as the Bullock's Oriole especially under pressure, year round, as their winter range in Central and South America is wiped out by the cattle industry's insatiable lust for rainforest destruction.

And then flying a gauntlet in the spring and fall, through clouds of 5-G radiation, "bird flu," wind turbine blades, and human imposed light pollution, disorienting the flocks and inflicting further attrition during migration.

Landing to rest, exhausted, only to then drink waters too often polluted with cattle and sheep manure, pharmaceuticals, and Bayer-Monsanto herbicides.

We've taken a veritable Garden of Eden and are converting it into a living hell for wildlife. And ultimately ourselves.

Stop.

And then start with voting "Yes" on HB25-1258, if we can take even a small step on a long road to righting this wrong.

As a renowned Republican scientist once wrote:

"You go out into a world where mankind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove its maturity and its mastery-not of nature, but of itself." (Rachel Carson).

And as a prominent Republican speechwriter pointedly put it:

"Such terrifying powers we possess, but what a sorry lot of gods some men are.

And the worst of it is not the cruelty but the arrogance, the sheer hubris of those who bring only violence and fear into the animal world, as if it needed any more of either.

Their lives entail enough frights and tribulations without the modern fire-makers, now armed with perfected, inescapable weapons, traipsing along for more fun and thrills at their expense even as so many of them die away.

It is our fellow creatures' lot in the universe, the place assigned them in creation, to be completely at our mercy, the fiercest wolf or tiger defenseless against the most cowardly man.

And to me it has always seemed not only ungenerous and shabby but a kind of supreme snobbery to deal cavalierly with them, as if their little share of the earth's happiness and grief were inconsequential, meaningless, beneath a man's attention, trumped by any and all designs he might have on them, however base, irrational or wicked." (Matthew Scully).

Thank you.

Dear Colorado legislators,

I am a long time Colorado resident and I appreciate your service. I am reaching out today to submit written testimony in support of HB25-1258(Scientific Wildlife Management). Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I feel it is important that CPW be able to use cutting edge wildlife science as they seek to best manage our valuable natural resources. At present, CPW is limited by an archaic mandate that ignores the science and prioritizes hunting and trapping as their go-to management strategy. It is said that less than 10 percent of Coloradans hunt, so how does this approach represent the majority of Coloradans who value our wildlife for non-consumptive reasons? As a taxpayer, I want to see rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and all Coloradans. HB25-1258 does not seek to stop hunting, it just encourages a changing paradigm of management as the science evolves.

Please do right for our amazing wildlife by supporting this bill. We are long overdue for an approach that recognizes ecological science. Biodiversity is decreasing at a rapid rate. We must carefully assess our actions in a rapidly changing world by embracing contemporary science over convention. Please vote in support of HB25-1258.

Thank you so much for honoring written testimony as you consider this important bill.

Dear legislative committee members,

We are excited to be able to submit written testimony in support of HB25-1258. Colorado's wildlife is dear to our hearts. Clearly the rapid population growth in Colorado is adversely affecting our wildlife and habitat. We worry about their future, and we were thrilled at the evolution of the Scientific Wildlife Management bill: HB25-1258. We want Colorado's wildlife to be managed with every relevant tool available, and if science is not prioritized then we are depending on the tools of the dark ages. That makes no sense in today's world. I'm sure many of CPW's wildlife managers come from fine institutions with hard-earned degrees in wildlife biology. Not prioritizing science is an insult to their professionalism.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a growing concern. There is much scientific basis for predator cleansing of diseased animals. Our valuable predator species have an uncanny ability to target the weak and sick. So why is Colorado Parks and Wildlife continuing to allow trophy hunting of lions and uncontrolled trapping and killing of bobcats and coyotes? If best science was prioritized, Colorado would value these species for their contribution to an overall healthy ecosystem and legislate accordingly.

HB25-1258 would remove the age old directive to prioritize hunting and trapping as the primary tools to conserve wildlife. Please, before it is too late, support a management model that will allow for true conservation of our valuable wild species. We are at a critical juncture for ecosystem health and a scientifically progressive approach is imperative!

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on issues that matter to us! We appreciate your time and hard work as you strive to represent all Coloradans. We look forward to a new era in wildlife conservation in Colorado. Your support of HB25-1258 will get us there!

Respectfully submitted, Robert and Lisa Dupre

House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

03/06/2025 Upon Adjournment

HB25-1258 Scientific Wildlife Management

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Christine vercellino For themselves	I wanted to take this opportunity to support HB 1258 eliminating a hunting mandate in Colorado statutes . I believe this bill will support science based policies and require Colorado Parks and Wildlife to think in critical terms and take a broader perspective in accordance with all coloradoans, versus just trappers and hunters . Let's work together to modernize Colorado and initiate our wildlife policies , along with ecological sciences and the ethics and values of most Colorado people. Thank you
Ed Gunsch Against themselves	<p>This bill is going to take the management of Colorado wildlife out of the hands of our local Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials who have been managing wildlife in Colorado for decades. There are already experts in wildlife conservation and management hired by the CPW. Hunting and fishing are part of the Colorado culture and history. Money from hunting and fishing licenses provide money for other recreation activities in Colorado besides hunting, and for conservation of our public lands. Have you never seen the "Hug a Hunter" commercial developed by https://cowildlifecouncil.org/. Colorado has one of the healthiest Elk population in the country, why do you want to try and legislate something that isn't broken.</p> <p>This bill specifies nothing about where the source of this new "best available" information is going to come from. It worries me that politicians are starting to dictate what information to use when they are not the experts.</p> <p>Hunting also contributes to the economy in Colorado, especially in more rural areas. Out of state hunting and fishing licenses are a significant contribution to this. Not to mention the money spent by out of state hunters when they are present in Colorado.</p> <p>The more our residential areas encroach on our public lands the more conflict there is between humans and wildlife. If wildlife population control is not available this conflict becomes greater. Right now there are few if any deaths because of bear and mountain lion attacks. Take hunting out of the equation and now you have an overpopulation of predators that are going to more frequently come into residential areas creating more opportunities for conflict.</p> <p>Please leave the management of the wildlife to the experts.</p>
Rebecca Burkhalter	Colorado General Assembly, My name is Rebecca Burkhalter. I come from a hunting family. My husband comes from a ranching community. I earned my Ecology degree

<p>For themselves</p>	<p>from the University of North Texas. Today, I educate people about the importance of hunting responsibly and CO's ecology. I know that the scientific method is the only way to find the truth. I am begging you to support science. As one of your constituents I'm urging you to support HB25-1258, the Scientific Wildlife Management bil, which would change obsolete and restrictive language in Colorado statute regarding wildlife management.</p> <p>Current Colorado law suggests that hunting, trapping and fishing is mandated as the primary wildlife management tool in Colorado - despite the robust body of science which informs that numerous other non-lethal management tools are often more effective at maintaining healthy wildlife populations. Changing the language in existing law to recognize that wildlife management should provide CPW's managers with wildlife management options that include all best-science strategies, not merely lethal strategies, to accomplish wildlife management to conserves and restores Colorado's rich natural heritage.</p> <p>I love hunters and hunting. I grew up on white tail deer venison. HB25-1258 does not restrict or limit hunting – it does ensure that CPW's professionals have all scientifically-supported wildlife management tools available to them. Hunting and trapping are only two tools that can be used to manage wildlife. Why do people think that "wildlife management" is synonymous with "lethal management?" Probably because of the outdated legislation that drives wildlife management: hunting and trapping. There is a myriad of nonlethal tools and methods at our disposal.</p> <p>A wildlife agency that is limited in their ability to manage wildlife due to an archaic mandate that ignores science and prioritizes hunting and trapping as their go-to management strategy, generally excluding nonlethal management tools, cannot effectively conserve the wildlife that Coloradans treasure. Nor does prioritization of hunting and trapping as the management tools of choice recognize that most Coloradans do not participate in hunting or trapping – only 6 percent of Coloradans hunt and trap while 94 percent support do not – this bill acknowledges those 94 percent of Coloradans who value wildlife for their inherent existence value – to watch them, hear them, experience their lives. Valuing the perspective of all Coloradans and adhering to science-based wildlife management is the goal of HB25-1285.</p> <p>Please support HB25-1258 – a bill that will enable and guarantee Scientific Wildlife Management.</p> <p>Below are science-backed reasons WHY I am asking you to SUPPORT HB25-1258!</p> <p>1. Current Colorado's wildlife statutes commits the state to use hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary wildlife management tool. HB25-1258 would instead require CPW to use the best available wildlife and ecological science to adopt rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and all Coloradans.</p>
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	<p>2. What is HB1258 in relation to wildlife science and why is it so important? HB25-1258 is a must-pass bill which ensures that CPW and its policymaking Commissioners will make decisions that are based on best science now and into the future.</p> <p>3. Why is this important? CPW is a science-based public agency that uses taxpayer dollars to manage wildlife for diverse public interests – from hunting, to wildlife watching – all should be valued as part of CPW’s management objective. This bill ensures that best science guides CPW managers to make the best, science-based decisions for wildlife and all Coloradans.</p> <p>4. What problem does the bill remedy? This bill would provide the certainty that now and into the future CPW and its staff CPW use best available science to manage wildlife populations, including if appropriate hunting, trapping or fishing as a management tool. The phrase “best available science” recognizes that as we come to new scientific understandings, management should change to reflect those new understandings. Opponents of this bill see boogeymen everywhere, saying that this language is not needed, because CPW already uses the best available science to manage wildlife and that this bill seeks to stop hunting, trapping and fishing.</p> <p>NOTHING is further from the truth. If best available science were already being embraced, Colorado would have not experienced a dramatic loss of our native biodiversity. Colorado’s State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) lists 159 native wildlife species that are at risk of loss and 117 plant species that are imperiled or critically imperiled. Ensuring the inclusion of new scientific understandings in management provides a contemporary framework to guide current and future agency’ action to restore and protect all native wildlife and plant species. As evidenced by the current chaos in the federal Administration, without the certainty provided by laws, agencies and the individuals that work for them can go badly awry.</p> <p>5. Why would anyone be opposed to science as a management strategy? Contemporary science refutes the “conventional” wisdom that hunting and trapping are the only strategies to manage wildlife. Contemporary science also brings us the understanding that wildlife species do not exist in isolation – rather all species, from microbes to plants to animals, are intimately connected in a web of life and are consequently all essential. This basic scientific premise requires that we manage wildlife populations as entire, interconnected communities – not as individual species.</p> <p>HB25-1258 provides CPW’s wildlife managers with all scientifically-based options with which to best manage the wildlife populations as interconnected parts of the entire wildlife community.</p>
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	<p>Managing Chronic wasting disease in Mule Deer. CPW's current strategies to control CWD are</p> <p>focused on 1) hunter harvest and 2) agency culling at disease foci and 3) removing motivations/attractants that cause animals to congregate (prolonged concentrations of deer and elk could facilitate increased contact as well as environmental accumulation of CWD prions that could increase transmission). Yet, CWD testing in mule deer herds by Colorado Parks and Wildlife shows that the prevalence of a fatal disease has decreased in four deer herds in the state, held generally steady in 12 and increased in 10 (In 2018 CWD was detected in 31 of Colorado's 54 deer herds. In 2024 chronic wasting disease was detected in 42 of the state's deer herds. Further, numerous hunting units are experiencing CWD prevalence rates of over 20% (CPW put in place a 5% threshold above which management actions would be taken to safeguard the wildlife resource. "Allowing prevalence to increase above levels that could be prevented through management would infringe upon CPW's duty of safeguarding the public's wildlife resources".) CPW has failed to take advantage of a natural strategy for controlling CWD – Predator Cleansing. Cougars, wolves, coyotes, bobcats and lynx save far more cervids (deer, elk, moose and caribou) than they kill. They save them by cleansing the environment of the 100-percent fatal chronic wasting disease, or CWD.</p> <p>Instead, Colorado Parks and Wildlife continues to allow the trophy hunting of mountain lions,</p> <p>uncontrolled trapping of bobcats and uncontrolled killing of coyotes – animals that are important</p> <p>allies in the fight against CWD.</p> <p>6. What else is HB25- 1258? HB25- 1258 removes what is essentially a directive to prioritize</p> <p>hunting, fishing and trapping, as the primary tools to conserve wildlife, recognizing that</p> <p>contemporary science provides other strategies that are often more effective at conserving</p> <p>wildlife populations. While hunting, trapping and fishing could be an appropriate management tool, they are not the only, or necessarily most effective tools.</p> <p>7. Beavers: Poster Child for Scientific Wildlife Management. Beavers. Science brings us the</p> <p>revelation that beavers are essential ecosystem engineers that store water and sequester</p> <p>carbon keeping our rivers flowing and mitigating climate warming. Non-lethal beaver management tools are effective at preventing conflict with human development, enabling</p> <p>beavers to thrive and provide their many benefits to humans and the natural world.</p> <p>8. Nonlethal Coexistence methods prevent conflict: Decades of evidence documents that non-</p>
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	<p>lethal methods prevent conflict between livestock and large carnivores including bears,</p> <p>mountain lions and wolves. Science further documents the essential value of these carnivores in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Yet, lethal control, through hunting, trapping and culling continues to be CPW's preferred management strategy.</p> <p>PLEASE SUPPORT SCIENCE! SUPPORT HB25-1258!!!Rebecca BurkhalterRebeccaSueBurkhalter@gmail.com(469) 426-7843</p>
<p>Hayley Engstrom For themselves</p>	<p>Dear legislators,</p> <p>Thank you for considering public input on HB25-1258 Scientific Wildlife Management. I am reaching out as a lifelong Coloradan urging you to support this bill. This bill does not restrict or limit hunting, but it does allow CPW to use a robust body of science as another tool to manage and conserve wildlife. The archaic statute now in place ignores science and prioritizes lethal strategies. This does not represent a majority of Coloradans, myself included. I think of our amazing wildlife as certainly one of Colorado's best natural resources, and I definitely want CPW policy to reflect the best available wildlife and ecological science.</p> <p>Colorado's native wildlife is facing a lot of challenges. Climate change, a growing population, and increasing development all pose a threat to wildlife and habitat across the state. Today we have over 150 native species at risk for loss. These are challenging times. Why wouldn't we want the most up to date information available as we strive to do best for our wild neighbors. Especially worrisome is chronic wasting disease infiltration of our deer and elk herds. This too demands progressive management based on cutting edge science.</p> <p>I am extremely hopeful that HB25-1258 will allow for a new era in wildlife management. I encourage you to support this bill. Thank you so much for your consideration.</p> <p>Hayley Engstrom Durango, CO</p>
<p>David Hand For themselves</p>	<p>Please vote yes on HB25-1258. Wildlife should be managed for all Coloradoans. Healthy habitats and ecosystems should be the priority, not politics and special interests' money. The best available science should always guide wildlife management decisions, so we don't cause further damage.</p>
<p>Wendy Boland For themselves</p>	<p>As a biologist I know it's crucial to have flexibility in how data is collected. This bill gives our wildlife specialists options in how they collect that data so they can follow the best scientific practices. Let's support our wildlife staff by passing this bill.</p>

<p>Nancy Gregory For themselves</p>	<p>I believe Colorado Parks & Wildlife uses the best science, and the people of Colorado demand no less. That science makes it clear that wildlife cannot be managed species-by-species, but must be managed for the good of entire ecosystems. That is a very important detail. Wildlife agencies should not be catering to hunters. The majority of people that frequent the outdoors are not hunters. Colorado Parks & Wildlife's scientific judgment is important. Hunting without reflecting best available science would be destructive.</p>
<p>Heather Vasquez For themselves</p>	<p>House Bill 25-1258 would transform how Colorado manages its wildlife by requiring the Parks and Wildlife Commission to use the best available science in decision-making, rather than defaulting to hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary management tools. This crucial shift would benefit wildlife, ecosystem health, and all Coloradans.</p> <p>This forward-thinking legislation would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require evidence-based wildlife management decisions guided by the latest scientific research Support whole ecosystem health rather than focusing solely on single-species management Give commissioners more flexibility to choose the most effective wildlife management approaches Create a stronger legal framework for protecting Colorado's diverse wildlife <p>Current law mandates that the state use hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary methods of wildlife management. HB25-1258 would modernize this approach by allowing commissioners to consider the full range of scientific evidence and management tools available. This change would help ensure that our wildlife policies reflect current ecological understanding and benefit entire ecosystems.</p> <p>By implementing a "best available science" standard, this bill would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable more comprehensive ecosystem management approaches Support evidence-based decision-making Provide legal grounds to challenge policies that ignore scientific evidence Allow for consideration of new research on wildlife behavior and ecosystem dynamics <p>This is a groundbreaking opportunity to modernize Colorado's wildlife management. Please vote YES on this bill.</p>

<p>Janice Zinkl For themselves</p>	<p>Our varied ecosystems make Colorado the wonderful place to live and they need to remain healthy. The many benefits, including economic, that our environment provides to all Coloradoans are innumerable. In this time of climate change, that is why CPW needs to continue managing ecosystems for their own ecological integrity. Science makes it clear that the wildlife in these ecosystems cannot be managed species-by-species.</p> <p>At one time, wildlife agencies existed to ensure that game was available for hunters. That is no longer the case, today, wildlife agencies manage for ecosystem health. That is why current language about wildlife management is outdated. CPW's scientists deserve the legal authority to decide when and where hunting is necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>Ecosystem health benefits everyone in Colorado and brings money to the state. Also, the enjoyment of thriving ecosystems is very important to most Coloradoans, including me. That is why I support HB 1258.</p> <p>In summary, I live in Colorado and I vote.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>
<p>Brett Ochs For themselves</p>	<p>As a native Colorado hunter and one of your constituents, I'm urging you to support HB25-1258, the Scientific Wildlife Management bill.</p> <p>Current Colorado law mandates that hunting, trapping, and fishing are the primary wildlife management tools. This is despite the long history and scientific proof that numerous other non-lethal management tools are often more effective at maintaining healthy wildlife populations.</p> <p>HB25-1258 does not restrict or limit hunting. It broadens the scope of wildlife management tools available to CPW professionals and ensures that they have all scientifically supported tools.</p> <p>This is an update that brings statutory language in line with how conservation science has evolved and how CPW already approaches management in practice.</p> <p>Updating the statute to include the best available science standard provides a clear, legally defensible foundation for management decisions, reducing the risk of costly legal challenges to effectively conserve the wildlife that Coloradans treasure.</p> <p>Healthy ecosystems are vital to industries like tourism, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. This bill supports these industries by ensuring that management decisions protect and enhance Colorado's natural assets.</p> <p>HB25-1258 reinforces the public trust in government decision-making by ensuring that policies affecting wildlife and natural resources are credible and future-focused.</p> <p>Please support HB25-1258, a bill that will enable and guarantee Scientific Wildlife Management.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Brett Ochs</p> <p>Boulder, CO</p>
<p>Jihyun Rudd</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Colorado’s wildlife should be managed based on science, not outdated mandates. Mandating hunting shouldn’t be the primary tool. We need to protect our wildlife!</p> <p>Thank you for your time!</p>
<p>Gina DiGiallonardo</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>My name is Gina DiGiallonardo and I am a citizen of CO. I was born and raised in CO and want to do all I can to maintain our wildlife. I enjoy wildlife photography and spend all of my free time and money traveling to places rich in wildlife.</p> <p>I am in favor of HB25-1258 because it would ensure wildlife management decisions are guided by best available science.</p> <p>This bill would remove the directive to prioritize hunting, fishing, and trapping as the primary tools to conserve wildlife. CO citizens utilize wildlife for more than hunting and fishing and removing this directive would better match our State.</p> <p>CO is a highly educated State and we expect our wildlife to be managed according to best available science.</p> <p>I am very concerned with our outdated practice and how we currently allow unlimited numbers of bobcats and other predators to be killed. In today's world this is outrageous and poor management. Passing HB25-1258 will give CPW more tools and an ability to better manage wildlife for all Coloradoans.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Gina DiGiallonardo</p>
<p>Jonathan Rayeski</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is Jonathan Rayeski and I am a citizen of CO. I enjoy the outdoors and all that CO has to offer for recreation and wild spaces. I am in support of HB25-1258. The current law forces wildlife managers to use hunting, trapping, and fishing as primary tools for wildlife management. This really limits CPW and the Commissions options. It is certainly not reflective of how at least half of the State views wildlife. Please pass the bill so that managers can use a wider variety of management tools. It would help wildlife managers follow best science. As a tax payer I would like the State to use best science.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Jonathan Rayeski</p>
<p>Wesley Engstrom</p> <p>For themselves</p>	<p>Dear legislators,</p>

	<p>Thank you for your service to Coloradans. As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support HB25-1258. This bill is long overdue. The existing model for Management that CPW must adhere to prioritizes hunting and trapping. Lethal strategies cannot always be the lone tool used in an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations. We are in a new era. Colorado is growing exponentially, creating a lot of pressure on our wildlife and their habitat. We must use science to clarify and support future management decisions. HB25-1258 will bring forth a model that represents all Coloradans, since the majority of Coloradans do not hunt or trap. This bill does not restrict hunting or trapping, but it does ensure a more holistic model for CPW to work with. Clearly, taxpayer dollars must attempt to reflect diverse public interests.</p> <p>I am relieved and excited at this opportunity for you to support a new paradigm in wildlife conservation that will allow CPW to use best available science as they seek to adopt rules that coincide with ecosystem health. Please support HB25-1258 on behalf of all Coloradans. Our fabulous wildlife is one of our best natural resources here in Colorado and deserves a robust model of management.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your consideration of my comments.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Wes Engstrom</p>
<p>christina Clayton For themselves</p>	<p>PLEASE SUPPORT HB 25-1258. Passage is critical to the coexistence of wildlife and human beings in our state. We are blessed with abundant and varied wildlife, and modern science offers us tools to enable it to continue to thrive, while taking account of ecosystem needs, and human needs for safety, health and recreation as well. Traditional methods- such as hunting, trapping and fishing-- are not prohibited under this bill. But what this bill does is to require CPW to consider and use the BEST AVAILABLE RESEARCH AND SCIENCE in making wildlife management decisions, rather than simply defaulting to these traditional methods as CPW must now do under current law. In practicing HB 25-1258 requires consideration of the whole picture--that is, whole ecosystem health--rather than a narrow focus single-species management. HB 25-1258 is a win for WILDLIFE, ECOSYSTEMS AND COLORADANS TOO! PLEASE vote in favor of the future of our beautiful state.</p>
<p>Jay Engstrom For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Legislators,</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration of constituent comments! I very much appreciate your time and efforts in the important upcoming legislative hearings. I am reaching out today to urge you to support HB25-1258. I am a lifelong Coloradan that very much appreciates our diverse and valuable native wildlife, and I have long wished that the management of our wildlife was based on scientific studies. We are in tenuous times when it comes to biodiversity. Species are disappearing at an alarming rate. Sources list 159 native wildlife species at risk of loss in Colorado. HB25-1258 will allow Colorado to be proactive with addressing anything that could potentially threaten our native species. Science backed research absolutely must be a</p>

	<p>factor in navigating management for the future. As a non-consumptive user of our amazing natural resources, I never felt represented by an outdated model that prioritizes hunting and trapping. I am relieved to see this long overdue bill come to the forefront. Please support HB25-1258.</p> <p>Respectfully, Jay Engstrom</p>
<p>Leif Sigstedt Against themselves</p>	<p>This is a terrible bill and a bad idea. Our state has always done a great job at managing our wildlife and hunting, trapping, and fishing have always been some of the main tools of doing so. There is no reason to try to move away from a way that has been working so well for such a long time. The people aren't asking for this change, this seems to be a misguided effort by a small group of people who don't understand the current system. I think that if this were put to a ballot measure it would be resoundingly defeated, just like the mountain lion ban, as would anything that negatively affects our hunting, fishing, and trapping culture. Like it or not these methods are an effective way of keeping our state wildlife in balance while also bringing millions of dollars of revenue to our state and feeding our citizens. Especially those who may not be able to afford to eat good meat very regularly if not for hunting. I would urge everyone here who doesn't want to go against the public will to not support this measure. I know that this bill, if passed into law, would be very deeply unpopular. Thanks for your time and consideration.</p>
<p>Michelle Lute For Wildlife for All</p>	<p>March 5, 2025</p> <p>House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee Colorado General Assembly 200 E Colfax Ave, Room 271 Denver, CO 80203</p> <p>RE: Support for HB 1258 – Eliminating the Hunting Mandate in Colorado Statute</p> <p>Dear Chair McCormick and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of Wildlife for All and our Colorado supporters, I write to express strong support for HB 1258, which seeks to eliminate an outdated and unscientific “hunting mandate” from Colorado statute. This bill represents a critical step toward modernizing wildlife governance in Colorado—ensuring that state policies reflect the values of all Coloradans and the best available ecological science.</p> <p>Colorado’s wildlife belongs to all its residents, not just a select group of consumptive users. However, the current statute effectively prioritizes hunting and trapping over other wildlife values, skewing policy decisions away from a more balanced and democratic approach. By removing this mandate, HB 1258 will allow Colorado Parks</p>

	<p>and Wildlife to consider a broader range of public interests—those of hunters and anglers, as well as hikers, wildlife watchers, conservationists, and all who cherish Colorado’s rich biodiversity.</p> <p>This bill is particularly important given the public’s clear stance against inhumane and unnecessary killing of wildlife for profit or sport. Colorado voters have repeatedly rejected cruel and outdated practices like commercial fur trapping, yet remnants of those policies persist in state law. The continued allowance of bobcat trapping—despite a lack of scientific population estimates or management goals—illustrates how the current system fails to prioritize ethical and evidence-based decision-making. HB 1258 will help rectify this imbalance and ensure wildlife policy is guided by both science and public values.</p> <p>We urge the committee to support HB 1258 and give Colorado the opportunity to lead in ethical and modern wildlife management. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Michelle Lute, PhD in wildlife management Executive Director Wildlife for All</p>
<p>Barry Noon For himself</p>	<p>TO: House Committees, Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources</p> <p>RE: House Bill 25-1258</p> <p>FROM: Dr. Barry R Noon</p> <p>I am writing in support of House Bill 25-1258 (A bill for an Act concerning requiring the Parks and Wildlife Commission to use the best available science to manage wildlife). I am unable to directly participate in the hearing and I have requested that my comments be read on behalf.</p>

	<p>I am Dr. Barry R Noon, Emeritus Professor of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. Prior to CSU, I directed a Forest Service research lab in the Pacific Northwest and served as Chief Scientist for the National Biological Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC. Over the last 45 years, my research has focused on the management of fish and wildlife on public lands in the US and tiger conservation in India.</p> <p>I want to clearly state that my support for this bill does not reflect negatively on the managers and scientists of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. I am most familiar with the products of CPW's research team which, in my opinion, is clearly among the best across all state Fish and Wildlife Agencies.</p> <p>I support section 1 of the bill for the simple reason that it provides additional, non-lethal options to CPW managers. The current wording of the Legislative Declaration uses two words—"shall" and "harvest"—that, in combination, do not reflect contemporary best practices in fish and wildlife management. Note that the word "shall" is equivalent to "must" in legal parlance. That is, hunting, trapping, and fishing must be used in the context of "harvest". Harvest, in turn, implies lethal control of fish and wildlife populations. To set harvest quotas for any wild population requires detailed information on a species' abundance, geographic distribution, demography and whether harvest mortality is compensatory or additive to background mortality. This information is available for only a handful of species.</p> <p>In both sections 1 and 2, I support inclusion of a "best available science" requirement. This is a common requirement in most, if not all, laws that govern the management of fish and wildlife populations on federal lands.</p> <p>If, as I believe to be the case, CPW's current management actions are largely based on the best available science, why is a specific requirement needed? In my perspective, this requirement addresses an explicit responsibility that CPW has to all Coloradoans, not just those who hunt, trap and fish. In addition, the proposed amendment reflects the unfortunate reality of declining wild populations of fish and wildlife, and that lethal control should be the last management option.</p>
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<p>Lisa Scharin For themselves</p>	<p>I am deeply concerned with the State of Our environment and the status of Many of the Wild life We share this Earth and country with.</p> <p>As You know-there are many threats that Animals face that Humans have caused-currently We are experiencing the 6th largest extinction rate in Human history. Currently-there are also More "Livestock" Animals on this planet than ALL the Wildlife on the planet-as well as-More "Livestock" Animals than ALL the Human population on this Planet!</p> <p>We are now seeing the consequences of this imbalance-which is NOT natural and IS very negative and destructive.</p> <p>I believe that the reason why Chronic Wasting Disease is due to the Unnaturally low populations of predators like Mountain Lions, Wolves, Bears, etc. Predators are vital to healthy, balanced ecosystems-this has been proven in Yellowstone with Wolves-along with the very successful project in Wood River Idaho-where only NON lethal methods of "management" are allowed-</p> <p>We also know-well into the 21st century that Mountain Lions are SELF regulating and keep their populations in check naturally.</p> <p>HB25-1258 is a modest, common-sense update to Colorado law. It clarifies existing statutory language to ensure that wildlife management decisions are explicitly guided by the best available science—an approach already widely accepted and practiced in Colorado.</p> <p>This bill aligns statute with current agency practices and public expectations by codifying principles of science-based decision-making that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and other agencies frequently reference, creating consistency and clarity in law.</p> <p>The bill does not create new regulatory burdens or mandates; rather, it ensures that our laws reflect modern standards for conservation and management that are already considered best practices in the field.</p> <p>The Bill is also a promotion of Science-Based Decision Making.</p> <p>By requiring the use of the best available science, the bill ensures that wildlife management decisions are grounded in current and credible research, leading to more effective conservation strategies.</p> <p>This bill merely reinforces what good policy already demands: that decisions affecting Colorado's wildlife and ecosystems are rooted in objective, transparent, and defensible data.</p> <p>Holistic Ecosystem Management</p>

	<p>HB25-1258 builds upon existing ecosystem management frameworks, ensuring that Colorado statute reflects a comprehensive approach that supports the health of whole ecosystems, not just individual species.</p> <p>This is an update that brings statutory language in line with how conservation science has evolved and how CPW already approaches management in practice.</p> <p>It brings needed Adaptability to Emerging Challenges</p> <p>With environmental conditions and wildlife populations continually changing, this bill ensures that agencies are empowered to rely on the most current data, allowing for timely and effective responses to new challenges.</p> <p>I support this bill and want to SEE Colorado do the RIGHT, HUMANE, ETHICAL thing to do for not only Mountain Lions, BUT ALL Wildlife and ALL of Us too!!</p> <p>Thank-You!</p>
<p>Robert Tanner Against themselves</p>	<p>Vote against this bill. Hunting is essential to wildlife management and restricting that would be a big mistake.</p>
<p>Laurie Russell For themselves</p>	<p>Please use science to determine how to manage our natural resources!</p> <p>There are so many anti-science and anti-knowledge movements in the US right now, but Colorado can hold the line.</p>
<p>Christine Capaldo For themselves</p>	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>As a veterinarian and biologist, I ask you to please support HB 1258. This bill simply ensures that the statute is modernized to include science when making decisions for wildlife. CPW is a science based agency and already uses science, so the bill is necessary to ensure that they can continue to do so. The bill in no way would change the fact that CPW can continue to use hunting, trapping, and fishing as tools for management.</p> <p>As a veterinarian, I continuously refer to science to make decisions about animals, including their health and welfare. A wildlife agency certainly would be doing the same.</p> <p>For example, CPW has used the best available science with their hard work with wolf restoration. They use science to decide where to place the wolves how to track them and how to prevent conflicts.</p>

	<p>We want CPW to continue to use science, and this bill will ensure that they can do so.</p> <p>CPW manages over 900 species of animals. Keep in mind only a few dozen are hunted. The rest of the animals are managed without hunting and using available science regarding population statistics, health, climate factors and disease.</p> <p>The scientists of CPW know how to interpret scientific literature, just as a veterinarian does, and we want them to continue to do so.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration regarding this important and necessary update to the statue.</p> <p>Respectfully, Christine Capaldo, DVM San Miguel County, Colorado</p>
<p>NJ Fulmer For themselves</p>	<p>I am writing in support of Bill HB25-1258</p> <p>It is time for the wildlife commission to base their hunting guidelines on science instead of hunting license sales and the demands of private enterprises.</p> <p>Since I moved to Grand Junction, Colorado in 1982, I have witnessed a whole ecosystem of wildlife be destroyed by unlimited hunting of coyotes and prairie dogs. In the North Fruita desert area, there used to be coyotes visible in the daytime laying on hilltops and prairie dogs in the thousands if not more. Golden Eagles were frequently hunting in the area.</p> <p>Soon people were lined up to annihilate the prairie dogs for the fun of "killing". I spotted dead coyotes that were shot for sport. The golden eagles no longer came to hunt.</p> <p>A friend and I came upon a burrowing owl residence. We took evidence to the DOW and were told there used to be thousands around Grand Junction and now there are very few.</p> <p>Along Hwy 6 & 50 there were so many prairie dogs, they were always crossing the highway. I never see prairie dogs in that area anymore.</p> <p>When I moved to Whitewater, CO., I was told, prior to that time, bobcats were abundant until people shot them all.</p> <p>As the wildlife commission knows, ecosystems are dependent on prey and predators to maintain a healthy balance of wildlife, plant life and environment.</p>

	<p>Public land should be kept in a healthy balance for future generations to enjoy. Residents of Grand Junction and Fruita will never get to experience the thrill of seeing the North Fruita Desert abundant with a complete ecosystem.</p> <p>I am asking the wildlife commission to discontinue the recreational shooting of prairie dogs on public land, the unlimited killing of coyotes and bobcats without scientific studies establishing a need.</p> <p>Thank You, NJ Fulmer</p>
<p>Kate Bosler For herself</p>	<p>Written Testimony in Support of HB25-1258 Submitted to the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee By Cayte Bosler</p> <p>Dear Members of the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of HB25-1258, which seeks to modernize Colorado’s approach to wildlife management by ensuring that decisions are guided by the best available science and ecological principles, rather than outdated mandates prioritizing hunting, trapping, and fishing as primary management tools.</p> <p>As someone with a background in investigative environmental research and sustainability science, I believe that Colorado has an opportunity—and an obligation—to lead in wildlife governance that is just, ecologically sound, and reflective of 21st-century conservation ethics. HB25-1258 moves us in that direction by ensuring that the Parks and Wildlife Commission is empowered to make decisions that prioritize biodiversity, ecosystem health, and coexistence, rather than being constrained by historical frameworks designed primarily for human recreation and resource extraction.</p> <p>Hunting, trapping, and fishing can play a role in wildlife management, but they should not be the default tools when better, science-backed methods exist. This bill allows for a more holistic and adaptive approach—one that considers non-lethal strategies, habitat restoration, and ecological balance as primary objectives. It also recognizes that wildlife belongs to all Coloradans, not just those who hunt or fish, and that management decisions should reflect the broader public interest, not just the interests of special interest groups.</p>

	<p>Colorado is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, from habitat loss to climate change. We need a wildlife management approach that is proactive, responsive, and rooted in the best available science. HB25-1258 is a step in the right direction, ensuring that decisions about our state’s wild species reflect the full range of ecological knowledge and public values.</p> <p>I urge you to support this bill and help Colorado continue to lead in forward-thinking, science-driven wildlife management.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cayte Bosler</p>
<p>Maya Kurtz For themselves</p>	<p>Please act to support HB-1258. State law should be aligned with the values of the people of Colorado and with best practices for science based wildlife management. A Colorado statute says that Colorado Parks and Wildlife “shall” allow hunting and trapping as the only tool for so-called management. The statute should be brought into the modern era to allow wildlife management through methods other than hunting and trapping. Our native wildlife deserves scientific management methods, instead of solely being managed through brutal and archaic hunting and trapping practices. As a fourth generation Colorado native, I implore you to support HB-1258. This issue is very important to me. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Katharina Abt For themselves</p>	<p>I am in full support of HB 25-1258 and as a proud Colorado native, I firmly believe our state can become an exemplary role model for all other states with regards to wildlife management. It is increasingly preposterous and embarrassing that the powers responsible for protecting and nurturing our wildlife and ecosystems continue to ignore the mountains of scientific studies that support, as this proposed bill articulates, "whole ecosystem health". I know that CPW biologists (among other staff members) utilize the best available research, methodologies, and technologies to gather accurate and reliable data that guides ecological decision-making for the state. However, per Colorado wildlife statutes, I strongly believe that too much emphasis, and thus responsibility, is placed on using hunting, trapping, and fishing as methods for wildlife "management". I am in no way anti-hunting, but there is a very clear distinction between ethically culling animals (sustenance hunting, which I fully support) and engaging in hunting practices that I observe as nothing more than murder for sport. Regardless, any of the aforementioned traditions should never be the first response to determining how to oversee the wildlife that we share this land with. The best procedures always begin with science (ecology, to be a bit more specific) and this bill is an excellent step towards ensuring that the CPW Commission is led, first and foremost, by ecological research. The future of Colorado's wildlife and diverse ecosystems depend upon logical and factual decisions, that are then inscribed into our state laws.</p> <p>This is my whole-hearted plea for the elected officials of Colorado to listen, to finally take those difficult steps towards tangible and invaluable change, and to the vote "YES" on HB 25-1258.</p>

	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.</p>
<p>Ron Hunt Against themselves</p>	<p>This is an awful bill designed to limit hunting in Colorado. There is absolutely no reason for this bill other than to punish those who hunt. There is clearly an anti-hunting agenda here.</p>
<p>Marije terEllen For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you Madam Chair and members of the committee.</p> <p>My name is Marije terEllen. I have lived in Boulder for 25 years, and I have a degree in Ecology from Michigan State University.</p> <p>I worked as volunteer coordinator for Proposition 127. During that year of collecting signatures and then campaigning, I engaged with thousands of Colorado voters.</p> <p>Every single person I, and everyone else spoke to, whether they supported our initiative or opposed it, said they believed in empowering CPW to follow the best possible science in their management decisions. This bill does just that. This bill rectifies language that most Coloradans do not know even exists and would actually oppose, should it be brought before you today.</p> <p>House Bill 1258 is not anti-hunting and does not hinder CPW to make decisions following the best possible science.</p> <p>It does the opposite, it increases the CPW tool box and gives CPW MORE options. Removing an archaic statute that was written under entirely different environmental and cultural circumstances will be giving CPW MORE flexibility by removing an outdated non-science-based mandate.</p> <p>I would like to make the point that anyone saying that they trust CPW to make the right decisions for our wildlife should not be opposed to this bill. Do you not trust the biologists to make the right decision when they are given more options?</p> <p>Are opponents to HB 1258 saying that if CPW is no longer mandated to allow hunting, and should they at some point decide that NOT hunting or trapping is best wildlife management practice based on best available science, that CPW is suddenly no longer following science? So do not give CPW that option?</p> <p>That is not being proponents of science backed management. That is lobbying for your special interest.</p>

	<p>Everyone stating that CPW should make the decision on best wildlife management practice should not be opposed to updating an outdated statute.</p> <p>Please pass House Bill 1258 and allow CPW to make decisions based on current best science, not based on outdated laws.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Marije terEllen</p>
<p>Richard Hus Against himself</p>	<p>Dear Representative Elizabeth Velasco and Tammy Story,</p> <p>I am writing to oppose HB25-1258, titled "Scientific Wildlife Management." As a concerned Colorado resident, hunter and fisherman, I believe this bill threatens a wildlife management system that has been successfully in place for decades and does not need to be changed.</p> <p>Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has long relied on hunting, fishing, and trapping as the primary methods for managing wildlife populations, a system that has proven effective for years. This approach, guided by CPW's expertise, has balanced wildlife populations, supported ecosystem health, and provided recreational opportunities for countless Coloradans. HB25-1258's shift from "shall" to "may" regarding these methods, combined with vague language about "best available science," opens the door to unnecessary legal challenges and political interference. The current system works—why fix what isn't broken?</p> <p>I'd also like to ask: Do either of you hunt or fish? What qualifications do you bring to the table to justify introducing a bill that could upend a system trusted by sportsmen, conservationists, and wildlife professionals for generations? Without direct experience or a clear understanding of how hunting and fishing contribute to wildlife management, it's hard to see how this bill serves Colorado wildlife's best interests.</p> <p>I respectfully request that you kill HB25-1258 to preserve Colorado's effective, time-tested wildlife management practices. Let's keep decisions in the hands of CPW's experts, not in courtrooms or at the mercy of outside agendas.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Richard Hus Littleton, CO</p>

	(720) 273-9411
Elizabeth Burger None themselves	This is a test
Philip Youngman For themselves	I wish to register my strong support for HB25-1258. I believe it is vital to the health and welfare of our State's wildlife to place their management on a more scientific basis. Wildlife in our State has importance for our citizens far beyond their value for hunting and trapping. Let's all please work together to get out of the Dark Ages.
Julie Tumblety For themselves	I am writing in full support of this Bill which will require the parks and wildlife commission to use the best available wildlife and ecological science to adopt rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and all Coloradans. As someone working at a university whose undergrad and graduate programs include natural resources and biology, I have seen firsthand the importance and positive impacts that hard scientific research coming out of the university provides to inform statewide policies and actions.
Cindy Kreiman For themselves	<p>Good morning</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of the Bob Cats, Mountain Lions, and all Big Cats. It is no secret that the special interest groups are in control and dominate how our wildlife is being "hunted" with cruelty and constant trauma. Who are we? Why is their so much fear, hatred and anger, why are their so many followers of misconceptions, myths and lies about our wildlife? There is a war going on against these precious Cats, who are trying to live, survive and care for their young, in a world overrun by "humans"</p> <p>What kind of legacy are we leaving behind, why are we teaching our children that it's OK to be disrespectful of these wild cats and to kill, maim, and torture them?</p> <p>We need to be the change to make a difference for these Big Cats, for all life</p> <p>We need to learn to live with instead of against them</p> <p>Life is precious, these animals feel pain, they bleed, grieve and suffer just as we do. Do you not here it in their cries, see it their suffering, feel it in your heart?</p> <p>Please Help...</p> <p>Thank you for your time and willingness to hear my comment</p>
Ingrid Moore For themselves	<p>Please move Colorado into the 21st Century and vote YES to approve this bill.</p> <p>The current wildlife statutes use an old paradigm of using hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary methods of effecting wildlife harvests.</p>

	<p>MANAGING WILDLIFE FROM A STRICTLY ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE IS UNSUSTAINABLE POLICY. Colorado’s wildlife is not an agricultural product!</p> <p>As the bill states, the parks and wildlife commission should “use the best available wildlife and ecological science to adopt rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and all Coloradans.”</p> <p>This will ensure that the economic benefits from harvesting will continue while maintaining a thriving wildlife population and policies that also benefit humans.</p> <p>There is no significant fiscal expense projected in implementing this bill.</p> <p>Please vote YES on this bill.</p>
<p>Helen Mitas For themselves</p>	<p>The word "science" denotes an approach centered in the realm of reality. In order to eliminate emotionalism, it is necessary to use actual truth to determine what is best for our local wildlife. As a hunter in the past, I know how emotionalism can interfere with fact based actions when it comes to guns and hunting and groups of like minded people. Please protect and manage local wildlife with the good tools that the scientific approach can give you.</p>
<p>Tiffany Kahle Against themselves</p>	<p>Hello this is Tiffany Kahle a life time colorado resident this bill HB 25-1258 proposes changing Colorado’s longstanding statutory language so that hunting and angling would merely be optional methods of managing wildlife rather than mandatory primary tools. It also requires CPW to rely on the undefined “best available science,” opening the door for politicized interpretations that can drag CPW into court. This creates confusion, undercuts the agency’s in-house research, and could weaken effective, science-driven wildlife management. I Urge all to vote “NO” on HB 25-1258. This is a dangerous bill for Colorados wildlife and hunting industry. We all know Jared polis's husband wants no hunting in colorado. He is against guns and is trying to dismantle the DOW. Please vote no on this destructive bill.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this and really represent ALL coloradans.</p>

Testimony in opposition to: HB25-1258, Scientific Wildlife Management
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

Thank you, Chair and Committee

My name is Robert Edmiston. I am with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado an NRA-affiliated, all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to the protection of individual rights and public safety.

I am a former U.S. Army Officer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. I have a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling and Guidance.

I am writing in opposition to the measure under consideration. The danger in the bill lies not in the obviously good intentions of the sponsors to balance the management of state wildlife between hunting and fishing, which are the basis of the long-accepted, proven North American Model of Wildlife Management, with the assumed interests of wildlife and the interests of all Coloradans.

The danger in the proposal lies in the possible misuse of "junk science" promoted by special interests to eliminate hunting and fishing in the state through outright bans or ever-expanding regulation. There have been numerous instances of "junk science" being used by opponents of firearms-related activities. (Please see the attached file.)

"I looked for the science, but could not find it. Then I followed the money. It was there that I found the science."

There is also a real danger that persons who know very little about wildlife and who have fallen victim to the Anthropomorphic Fallacy will gain undue influence on the board and move to "protect" animals from human interference, possibly resulting in starvation or disease epidemics due to overpopulation. "Bambi Biology" could pose a real threat to the very animals that uniformed people may consider to be "cute" or "cuddly."

The elimination or over-regulation of hunting and fishing in Colorado would have a drastic economic impact on the state, especially in rural areas, which have already been damaged by restrictions on energy development and the reintroduction of wolves. These predators are already causing losses to livestock in areas where they have been inserted.

The demise of hunting and fishing would also reduce state revenues from sales taxes and specific taxes on firearms and accessories. In a year when Colorado faces a severe budget shortfall, further reduction of revenue would not seem to be good public policy. Hunting and fishing currently contribute an estimated \$3.25 Billion and more than 25,000 full-time jobs to the economy of the state.

[Benefits for all - Colorado Wildlife Council.](#)

The North American Model has served Colorado well. We see no reason to risk this proven, successful protocol by opening the door to special interests, junk science, and “Bambi Biologists.”

We urge a “No” vote on this bill.

Thank you.

Robert Edmiston
Volunteer Lobbyist
The Firearms Coalition of Colorado
PO Box 1454, Englewood, CO 80150-1454

Hearing Item: HB25-1258

Dear Legislators:

I'm urging you to support HB25-1258, the Scientific Wildlife Management bill, which will change obsolete and restrictive language in Colorado statute regarding wildlife management.

HB25-1258 does not seek to stop hunting, trapping and fishing. It simply clarifies existing statutory language to ensure that wildlife management decisions are explicitly guided by the best available science—an approach already widely accepted and practiced in Colorado.

Current Colorado's wildlife statutes commits the state to use hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary wildlife management tool. This bill would provide the certainty that now and into the future CPW and its staff use best available science to manage wildlife populations, including if appropriate hunting, trapping or fishing as a management tool.

Contemporary science refutes the “conventional” wisdom that hunting and trapping are the only strategies to manage wildlife. Contemporary science also brings us the understanding that wildlife species do not exist in isolation – rather all species, from microbes to plants to animals, are intimately connected in a web of life and are consequently all essential. This basic scientific premise requires that we manage wildlife populations as entire, interconnected communities – not as individual species.

HB25- 1258 removes, what is essentially a directive to prioritize hunting, fishing and trapping, as the primary tools to conserve wildlife, recognizing that contemporary science provides other strategies that are often more effective at conserving wildlife populations. While hunting, trapping and fishing could be an appropriate management tool, they are not the only, or most effective tools.

In example Hunting and trapping do not help in management of Chronic wasting disease in Mule Deer, or in restoring our watersheds through relocation and protection of Beaver. Nor has hunting, trapping and fishing prevented 159 native wildlife species and 117 plant species being placed on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) list.

We need this Bill embedded in Law, it will provide a clear, legally defensible foundation for management decisions. We see, as evidenced by current chaos in Federal Administration, that without the certainty provided by laws, agencies and the individuals that work for them can go badly awry. If we don't **Nail it Down** it can be taken away!

Healthy ecosystems are vital to industries like tourism, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. This bill supports these industries by ensuring that management decisions protect and enhance Colorado's natural assets. Updating our statutes to reflect current best practices is not just good policy—it's good economics.

Please support HB25-1258, the Scientific Wildlife Management Bill!

Sincerely

Lulu Colby

Hello committee members,

My name is Reed Glenn. I've been a Colorado citizen since 1976. As a journalist I've worked as a science writer and environmental columnist for national research centers and major news outlets. I'm an avid outdoors person who enjoys camping, hiking, skiing, nature observation and photography, and I care deeply about our wildlife and its protection and humane treatment.

I strongly advocate HB25-1258, which is a simple update to the current outdated and unscientific Colorado law. HB25 will use the best available scientific and ecological research for wildlife conservation and management instead of recreational hunting, fishing and trapping, which, currently, are the primary methods for wildlife harvest and management .

An example of current wildlife harvesting that is dead wrong and unethical is the trapping of bobcats for profit. The trapped bobcats panic, get injured trying to escape, starve, freeze or overheat in cages that may not be monitored for hours or days. Next, they are strangled or injected with acetone, dying a painfully horrific death so as not to damage their beautiful, highly desirable pelts, which are sold to Russia or China for luxury items. This is not wildlife management! This is torture, murder and profiteering from our beautiful wildlife. Think about how this would be for your own cat or dog.

I realize that wildlife management is a larger, more complex issue involving predation of livestock on farms and ranches. But managing our state's wildlife should not be left to random individuals or recreational hunters and trappers – licensed or not.

HB25 supports the health of whole ecosystems. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is a science-based public agency, supported by our tax dollars and should be guided by sound, current ecological science and research. This is a no-brainer!

Please pass HB1258!

I am writing to you regarding HB25 – 1258: Scientific Wildlife Management. As I become more educated about the deplorable practice of commercial and recreational trapping of our small game and fur bearers, as well as the trophy hunting of mountain lions, my shock and heartbreak grow exponentially. Colorado's wildlife has been bringing me joy for close to four decades. In retrospect, before I was "in the know", I guess I just trusted that the state of Colorado valued wildlife! And I trusted that Colorado Parks and Wildlife was all about conservation and truly protecting my natural resources. Why wouldn't I? It's right there on CPW's home page - front and center:

"As a Division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, we are Colorado's primary agency focused on protecting and caring for some of our most valued and valuable resources. These resources form the very fabric of our state and define who we are. Our mission is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state... "

Instead management is dictated by one thing – hunting and trapping! In recent years I have felt the push and call to action on behalf of our furbearers, small game animals, and mountain lions. I was initially inspired by the growing awareness of the commercial fur trapping of our native bobcats – a reprehensible and terribly upsetting practice. I was not aware of the many other victims condoned by the state of Colorado as legal and permitted takings by traps – they are many and varied. Did you know about the furtive little pine squirrels that visit my bird feeder – 5 per day per trapper for 4 months out of the year. I even found a fur buying website that will pay a whopping 6 bucks for one of my cute visitors. I am sometimes gifted with the sight of the elusive pine marten dashing between trees in the old growth conifers behind my house. Their winter coat is lustrous, and it seems the commercial trapper can fetch up to 10 times the price of a pine squirrel. And guess what? 4 months of UNLIMITED marten takings per trapper each year.

Just like no one really knows the true health of the marten population (because field science is not part of their assessment), no one really knows how many are taken in the state each year. This demonstrates why we desperately need to pass HB25 - 1258. Colorado can and must base wildlife management on best science. Online estimates vary to more or less 300 trapped marten per year in Colorado. Other native "fair game" victims of trapping, according to our state regulations for furbearers and small game, include foxes, bobcats, hares, ptarmigans, grouse, coyote, beaver, turkeys, mink, and on and on.

To add to the misery are the statistics surrounding the non-target species that end up injured or dead in traps. Of course they do! This estimate lingers pretty close to 50 percent of each set trap across the west instead maims or kills unintended victims including eagles, owls, cougar, wolves, lynx, bear, and countless other species. Even a fair share of domestic pets! And for each animal killed there is the likely downstream fallout of dependent young now minus their lifeline.

I'm pretty sure if there was someone in my little neighborhood trapping the squirrels that frequent the bird feeders and the fox that sporadically trots through, with an occasional kill of someone's dog or cat, there would be an uprising until the individual was confirmed insane and locked up...but, allow it in our wild lands where we don't see it and ignorance and apathy prevail. I know my repulsion to trapping is anything but unique to me, as I have been lately talking to many friends and clients about this and their reaction is predictable: "Really? That's

legal?? That's horrifying!" If I really want to test their reaction, I pull up some images easily found on trapping social media sites. I'm hopeful that I can spread the indignation and that others will be inspired to a call to action on behalf of our native critters. I challenge any of you to look at some of those images and read the banter amongst trappers. I trust that it will touch you profoundly.

Why do we condone trapping and trophy hunting by making it legal and enacting a permitting process? Here we are in the throes of earth's 6th mass extinction. Species are disappearing at an alarming rate - one considered by scientists to be the most severe extinction rate since the dinosaurs, with the distinction being that it is almost completely driven by human activity. Clearly human activity needs to provide the solution. So why are we legislating senseless killing of innumerable species? To what benefit? I'll tell you the obvious answer. The benefit lies with the less than 1 percent of our Colorado residents that live in that dark, unsportsmanlike world of killing either for fun or for profit – Trappers and trophy hunters! While commercial trappers are benefitting financially by exploiting my, and your, natural resources, recreational trappers and trophy hunters are killing for what? Fun?

Lastly, I must leave you with the image that often haunts me as I immerse myself in my beautiful wild surroundings. It's an image of a bobcat in a trap not far from where I stand. She is suffering the anxiety of knowing her young are waiting for her return. The warmth of her den and her needy young are calling, but her life is completely out of her control. She may sit there all night through the expected foot of snow, maybe even through the next night's expected subzero temperatures. Immobilized, hungry, thirsty, anxious, afraid, and waiting for the unsavory character who will end her life in a manner that doesn't compromise the integrity of her pelt sale. According to the social media sites I have visited the most effective and likely final strike comes from a choke stick. But there are plenty of other tactics readily employed, including drowning and bludgeoning. Oh, and the regulations allow for Unlimited bobcat trappings for three months of each year. As many as the trapper can trap! NO LIMIT. For no reason based on science or value or conservation, life leaves them to support a nefarious overseas fur trade and provide a trapper with a measly income.

I beg you to stand up to an outdated culture and support a critically overdue paradigm that is based on the best wildlife science. Please support HB25 – 1258. Colorado can be a leader in wildlife conservation with a model that reflects best science and compassion towards our most valuable natural resource – our stunning native wildlife. Human activity in the way of development and recreation is compromising our habitat and wild inhabitants. Trapping and trophy hunting adds insult to injury and for no good reason. We can and must do better!

Re: HB25-1258

I have been following the progress of the discussion concerning the ways in which hunters are allowed to track down and kill mountain lions and bobcats, the former merely for the 'sport' of shooting a mountain lion in a tree (which also reaps the hunt organizer a huge fee), and the latter bludgeoning bobcats to death for the profit brought to these 'hunters' by their attractive fur. Both are abhorrent methods and should be banned. There are laws prohibiting cruelty to domesticated animals - are these animals trying to survive in the wild (no easy thing in itself) be afforded less?

I also noted that almost half of the lions killed were female, and the fact that female mountain lions can breed all year long means that many had young that would be unable to survive without their mother's care. More mountain lion casualties than one kill.

Some in a position to speak on the subject with authority of education and experience have said mountain lions are highly territorial and able to regulate their populations, as they have done for years in California. 'Regulation' then becomes merely placating a group that enjoys killing a helpless animal in the most unsportsmanlike manner. The fact that one group is now suing the same entity that wishes to discuss this policy further gives anyone some idea where their true motives come from - their greedy end justifies whatever means.

I hope this discussion goes beyond talking and results in real change for these amazing animals, and the banning of the cruel methods used in their deaths.

Sincerely!

Mary Nelson

Written Testimony in Support of HB25-1258
Submitted to the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee
By Cayte Bosler

Dear Members of the House Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB25-1258, which seeks to modernize Colorado's approach to wildlife management by ensuring that decisions are guided by the best available science and ecological principles, rather than outdated mandates prioritizing hunting, trapping, and fishing as primary management tools.

As someone with a background in investigative environmental research and sustainability science, I believe that Colorado has an opportunity—and an obligation—to lead in wildlife governance that is just, ecologically sound, and reflective of 21st-century conservation ethics. HB25-1258 moves us in that direction by ensuring that the Parks and Wildlife Commission is empowered to make decisions that prioritize biodiversity, ecosystem health, and coexistence, rather than being constrained by historical frameworks designed primarily for human recreation and resource extraction.

Hunting, trapping, and fishing can play a role in wildlife management, but they should not be the default tools when better, science-backed methods exist. This bill allows for a more holistic and adaptive approach—one that considers non-lethal strategies, habitat restoration, and ecological balance as primary objectives. It also recognizes that wildlife belongs to all Coloradans, not just those who hunt or fish, and that management decisions should reflect the broader public interest, not just the interests of special interest groups.

Colorado is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, from habitat loss to climate change. We need a wildlife management approach that is proactive, responsive, and rooted in the best available science. HB25-1258 is a step in the right direction, ensuring that decisions about our state's wild species reflect the full range of ecological knowledge and public values.

I urge you to support this bill and help Colorado continue to lead in forward-thinking, science-driven wildlife management.

Sincerely,
Cayte Bosler