

SPEAKER DEBRA TAYLOR SUBMISSION FOR SB22-031, ARTICLES PUBLISHED, ON IMPORTANCE OF MOUNTAIN LIONS AND PREDATORS IN CONTROLLING SPREAD OF UNGULATE DISEASES.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES

Study: Chronic Wasting Disease kills 19% of deer herd annually

by Angus M. Thuermer Jr. December 15, 2015

Study: Chronic Wasting Disease kills 19% of deer herd annually (wyofile.com)

Examination of the interaction between age-specific predation and chronic disease in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13661>

Ellen E. Brandell Paul C. Cross Douglas W. Smith Will Rogers Nathan L. Galloway Daniel R. MacNulty Daniel R. Stahler John Treanor Peter J. Hudson...

First published: 07 January 2022

Mountain lions could help stop the spread of a fatal infection in deer (theecologist.org)

Mountain lions could help stop the spread of a fatal infection in deer

Josh Schlossberg | 16th May 2018

<https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2020/12/10/colorado-mountain-lions-kill-disease-deer-infected-chronic-wasting-disease-could-wolves-do-same/3859249001/>

Dec 10, 2020 - A Colorado Parks and Wildlife study has shown that adult deer infected with chronic wasting disease are *four times more likely to die from mountain lions* than uninfected

<https://mountainjournal.org/predators-and-chronic-wasting-disease>

The Undeniable Value of Wolves, Bears, Lions And Coyotes In Battling Disease

WILL THE FAIRY TALE MENTALITY OF WESTERN STATES AGAINST PREDATORS HAMPER THEIR ABILITY TO SLOW CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

by Todd Wilkinson

https://www2.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/modelingCWD/papers/Krumm_et_al_2009.pdf

Mountain lions prey selectively on prion-infected mule deer Caroline E. Krumm

February 3rd, 2022

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Kerry Donovan – Chair
Sonya Jaquez Lewis- Vice Chair
Don Coram
Rhonda Fields
Jerry Sonnenberg

Dear Committee Members,

We are Colorado residents who live in Broomfield. hunting and angling is an important activity we do together as husband and wife, it provides us with sustenance and also recreation.

We do not support SB22-031, it will limit Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) abilities to manage these predator populations in the future. We urge you NOT to support this bill as it will only limit the abilities for CPW to use hunting to help manage these species and it is not based on any scientific facts nor does it follow the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation which has been key to our success in conserving our wildlife for decades.

We are concerned about the sustainability and overall direction of Wildlife Management in Colorado. We both are in support of Mountain Lion Hunting / Bobcat trapping in Colorado. The hunting and management of these species help protect MORE wildlife, left unchecked the wildlife population and overall ecosystem will suffer. Colorado already has proven regulations using scientific methods in place to keep wildlife populations healthy and in balance.

Here are several reasons SB22-031 is bad for Colorado's Wildlife Management and Conservation:

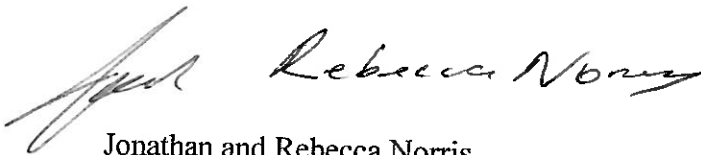
- Wildlife ecology is complicated, and population dynamics and issues vary across the state, so we need to provide our state wildlife agency with some flexibility, and a variety of tools for managing game and predator populations. This bill Interferes with the ability for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to base management and conservation on science rather than policy that influenced by outside special interest groups.
- Predator management is one of the most important steps for conservation, balance, and healthy herds. Ending predator hunting such as mountain lion or bobcat affects this balance.
- Deer and Elk fawn and calf mortality rates rise - additionally, Mountain Lions are known to kill one deer per week.
- Will provide less revenue for wildlife research; it is estimated that \$270,000 in FY 2023-24 will be lost in revenue from licenses, these will also be impact to local economies and businesses. Also this will increase the cost in livestock damages caused by mountain lions and bobcats. The cost and loss of revenue has yet to be fully determined.
- Unbalanced predator numbers which lead to over predation of other wildlife.
- A precedent that science plays no role in wildlife management, it does not follow scientific fact or supporting data.

- This bill unwisely proposes to put politics before science in wildlife management which is not based on science or commonly accepted wildlife conservation and management practices employed in the United States.
- Colorado hunters, anglers, and conservationists all support science-based wildlife management, which is based on the *North American Model of Wildlife Conservation*.
- Restricts the ability for Ranchers to protect their herds and livelihoods.
- Lynx are already federally protected, the current regulations for trapping animals takes this into consideration (i.e. live traps and they have to be checked every 24 hours).
- Mountain lion hunting is specially regulated seasons are based on data collected in the field and specialized education courses are required in order to receive a permit.
- Based on what outside special interest groups want, it is not a representation of Colorado's requirements or values when it comes to wildlife conservation and management or the people of Colorado. HSUS and other groups have repeatedly has used questionable science, circular reasoning, and data from outside of Colorado to change current regulations. Multiple times the Committee has rejected these attempts to interfere with wildlife management strategies.
- Will Increase negative human encounters and domestic animals especially in areas that have higher human population.

We also urge to review the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation which has been in place for over 125 years, we have included a book entitled "The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation" which provides a detailed history and overview of this important role it plays in conserving and managing wildlife in Canada, United States, and Mexico. Please review this book and add it to your library for future use. An online version can be found here: <http://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/North-American-model-of-Wildlife-Conservation.pdf>

Please take this letter into consideration and support science-based wildlife conservation and management.

Sincerely,



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