Initiative 2023-2024 #91 Final Version

Be it Enacted by the People of the State Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 33-4-101.4 as follows:

33-4-101.4. Trophy hunting prohibited – **exceptions** – **legislative declaration** – **rules** – **penalty** – **definitions.** (1) The voters of Colorado find and declare that any trophy hunting of mountain lions, bobcats, or lynx is inhumane, serves no socially acceptable or ecologically beneficial purpose, and fails to further public safety. Trophy hunting is practiced primarily for the display of an animal's head, fur, or other body parts, rather than for utilization of the meat. Moreover, it is almost always conducted by unsporting means, including, but not limited to, using packs of dogs with electronic devices to pursue and entrap affected animals in places from which they cannot escape in order to achieve the kill. Therefore, it is appropriate and necessary to ban trophy hunting of mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx in Colorado.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

(a)(I) "TROPHY HUNTING" MEANS INTENTIONALLY:

(A) KILLING, WOUNDING, PURSUING, OR ENTRAPPING A MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT, OR LYNX; OR

(B) DISCHARGING OR RELEASING ANY DEADLY WEAPON, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-1-901(3)(e), AT A MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT, OR LYNX.

(II) "TROPHY HUNTING" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(A) ANY ACT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION IF IT WAS CONDUCTED IN THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN LIFE, LIVESTOCK, REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY, OR A MOTOR VEHICLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 33-3-106 AND APPROPRIATE NONLETHAL METHODS HAVE BEEN USED AS DEFINED BY THE COMMISSION, EXCEPT THAT LETHAL MEANS MAY BE USED TO DEFEND HUMAN LIFE;

(B) ANY ACT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION IF IT WAS CONDUCTED BY AN AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEE OF THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WHEN THE EMPLOYEE IS ACTING IN HIS OR HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY;

(C) THE ACCIDENTAL WOUNDING OR KILLING OF A MOUNTAIN LION, LYNX, OR BOBCAT BY A MOTOR VEHICLE, VESSEL, OR TRAIN;

(D) THE USE OF NONLETHAL METHODS BY A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO CAPTURE A MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT OR LYNX FOR PURPOSES OF BONA FIDE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, FOR RELOCATION PERMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES OF THE DIVISION OR FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT OF THE ANIMAL BEING CAPTURED AS PERMITTED BY SECTION 33-6-206(1)(a), (1)(c), OR (1)(d);

(E) ANY ACT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) of this section if authorized by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to section 35-40-101 to control depredating animals;

(F) EUTHANASIA OF AN ILL OR INJURED MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT, OR LYNX, DONE FOR HUMANE REASONS, BY A PERSON LICENSED TO PRACTICE VETERINARY MEDICINE UNDER THE COLORADO VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT, ARTICLE 315 OF TITLE 12; (G) ANY ACT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION IF IT WAS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO A SPECIAL LICENSE ISSUED BY THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE UNDER SECTION 33-4-102(2)(a), 2(i), or (13); or

(H) ANY ACT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION IF IT WAS CONDUCTED BY AN EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR OF A FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING HUMAN HEALTH OR SAFETY PURSUANT TO SECTION 33-6-205.

(b) "PURSUING" MEANS FOLLOWING OR CHASING IN ORDER TO ATTACK, ENTRAP, WOUND, OR KILL, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, USING ONE OR MORE DOGS IN SUCH ACT.

(3) TROPHY HUNTING OF ANY MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT, OR LYNX IS UNLAWFUL.

(4) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION COMMITS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR AND, UPON CONVICTION THEREOF, SHALL BE PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 18-1.3-501.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF ANY OFFENSE UNDER THIS SECTION WHO HOLDS A WILDLIFE LICENSE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD OR EXERCISE THE PRIVILEGES OF SUCH A LICENSE FOR FIVE YEARS.

(c) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF TWO OR MORE OFFENSES UNDER THIS SECTION IS PROHIBITED FROM HOLDING OR EXERCISING THE PRIVILEGES OF SUCH A LICENSE FOR LIFE.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-4-102, amend (1.4)(s) as follows:

33-4-102. Types of licenses and fees - rules. (1.4) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (1.5) and (1.6) of this section, the division may issue the following resident and nonresident licenses and shall collect the following fees:

Fees

(s) Mountain lion 48.00 660.00

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-6-107, amend (9) as follows:

33-6-107. Licensing violations – penalties – rule. (9) For the purposes of this section, any person, any member of such person's family, or any employee of the person may hunt, trap, or take blackbilled magpies, common crows, starlings, English or house sparrows, common pigeons, coyotes, bobcats, red foxes, raccoons, jackrabbits, badgers, marmots, prairie dogs, pocket gophers, Richardson's ground squirrels, rock squirrels, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, porcupines, crayfish, tiger salamanders, muskrats, beavers, exotic wildlife, and common snapping turtles on lands owned or leased by the person without securing licenses to do so, but only when such wildlife is causing damage to crops, real or personal property, or livestock. Any person may kill skunks or rattlesnakes when necessary to protect life or property. The pelts or hides of any mammals taken under this subsection (9) may be transferred, possessed, traded, bartered, or sold by a person who holds an appropriate small game license.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-6-109, amend (3)(c) as follows:

33-6-109. Wildlife – **illegal possession.** (3) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, depending upon the wildlife involved, shall be punished upon conviction by a fine or imprisonment, or both, and license suspension points or suspension or revocation of license privileges as follows:

(c) For each elk, bear, moose, LYNX, BOBCAT, or mountain lion, a fine of one thousand dollars and an assessment of fifteen points.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-6-110, **amend** (1)(a) and (c) as follows:

33-6-110. Division action to recover possession and value of wildlife unlawfully taken.

(1) The division may bring and maintain a civil action against any person, in the name of the people of the state, to recover possession or value or both possession and value of any wildlife taken in violation of articles 1 to 6 of this title. A writ of replevin may issue in such an action without bond. No previous demand for possession shall be necessary. If costs or damages are adjudged in favor of the defendant, the same shall be paid out of the wildlife cash fund. Neither the pendency of such civil action nor a criminal prosecution for the same taking shall be a bar to the other; nor shall anything in this section affect the right of seizure under other provisions of articles 1 to 6 of this title. The following shall be considered the minimum value of the wildlife unlawfully taken or possessed and may be recovered in addition to recovery of possession of the wildlife:

(a) For each eagle, member of an endangered species, rocky mountain goat, moose, rocky mountain bighorn sheep, MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT, or lynx...\$1,000

(c) For each pronghorn, deer, OR black bear or mountain lion...\$500

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-1-102, amend (2) as follows:

33-1-102. Definitions. (2) "Big game" means elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, rocky mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, rocky mountain goat, pronghorn antelope, black bear, mountain lion, and all species of large mammals that may be introduced or transplanted into this state for hunting or are classified as big game by the commission.

SECTION 7. Effective date - applicability. This measure shall be effective on and after the date it is declared by proclamation of the governor to have been adopted by voters and shall apply to offenses committed on or after the effective date.