

**PARK COUNTY, COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 036**

A RESOLUTION FOR THE PARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, PARK COUNTY COLORADO, OPPOSING THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT QUESTION “PROHIBIT BOBCAT, LYNX AND MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING” AKA PROPOSITION 127 (BALLOT INITIATIVE 91).

WHEREAS, respectful and responsible hunting is a time-honored tradition in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state of Colorado that the state’s wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors; and

WHEREAS, Colorado’s wildlife is a resource owned by the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, Colorado law provides that the state “*shall utilize hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary methods of effecting necessary wildlife harvests*”; and

WHEREAS, the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation used by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is the most successful wildlife management model in the world maintaining healthy big game with balanced populations; and

WHEREAS, the populations of mountain lion, bobcat and lynx are thriving, healthy, and stable in Colorado under the current CPW management plan, with Lynx being a protected species is not hunted under current law; and

WHEREAS, the human population of Colorado continues to grow, and residential development continues to expand into traditional mountain lion and bobcat habitat; and

WHEREAS, an unmanaged population of large apex predators will inevitably lead to increased human and livestock conflict on both agricultural and residential lands and severely reduce game populations; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 127 removes mountain lions from the definition of big game, making livestock owners ineligible for state reimbursement for damage claims for personal property and livestock damage or loss caused by a mountain lion, inflicting irreparable financial harm to livestock owners, and

WHEREAS, Proposition 127 would upend decades of research by CPW, eviscerate the West Slope Mountain Lion Plan, and render irrelevant an ongoing decade-long study in the

Upper Arkansas River drainage basin to establish the relationship between human-lion conflict and changes in hunter harvest levels; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 127 is another example of misguided ballot-box biology, funded largely by groups outside of Colorado, which contains language that is confusing at best, and intentionally deceptive at worst.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PARK COUNTY, COLORADO officially declares its opposition to Proposition 127 and urges the voters of Park County in the State of Colorado do the same; and

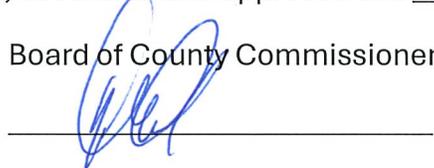
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Park County Commissioners declares big game management is best left to CPW and their specialists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Park County Commissioners commend Colorado Parks and Wildlife for its exemplary work to maintain healthy and thriving populations of mountain lion, bobcat and lynx, and for its national leadership in wildlife conservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Commission urges all voters to vote "NO" on Proposition 127 on the November 2024 ballot.

Moved, seconded and approved this 8th day of October 2024.

Board of County Commissioners



Amy Mitchell, Chair

Amy Mitchell, Chair	<u>X</u>	Yes	_____	No
Richard Elsner	<u>X</u>	Yes	_____	No
Dave Wissel	<u>X</u>	Yes	_____	No