



# Advocacy Kit

**CPW Meeting | March 5-6 2025**

## Meeting Details

- **Location:**
  - CPW Headquarters - Hunter Education Building at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216.
  - *From the parking lot entrance, the building is in the back, left corner.*
- **Time:** Meetings start each day at 8:00 a.m. and can run past 5:00 p.m.
- **Materials:** When available, the agenda, YouTube link and meeting materials can be found [online here](#).
- **Public Comment Deadlines:**
  - The virtual comment sign-up form will be posted February, 24th [online here](#). *Scroll down and click "Register to Provide Oral Public Comments."*
  - Virtual comment registration deadline is February 28th at 12:00 p.m. MT.
  - Written comments must be submitted by February 28th at 12:00 p.m. to [dnr\\_cpwcommission@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us).
  - For people attending in-person, you can also register to provide oral comments by filling out a blue slip at the registration table upon check-in.

## Talking Points

For the March meeting we recommend commenting on “furbearers” and CPW’s ongoing sponsorship of the Colorado Predator Hunters and Fur Trappers who exploit native species through commercial markets via the [Colorado fur auction](#), which took place February 5-6. Check out our [Fur Auction Advocacy Kit](#) for more ideas! For a [plain text version of talking points click here](#). For [fur auction photos click here](#).

### 1. Unlimited Trapping of Furbearing and Predator Species is Ecologically Irresponsible

- Species such as bobcats, coyotes, and foxes play vital roles in ecosystems by controlling rodent populations, limiting the spread of disease, and maintaining predator-prey balance ([Harrison, 2010](#)).
- Overharvesting of keystone predator species like bobcats and coyotes can lead to ecosystem imbalance, increased prey populations, and negative effects on other wildlife ([Litvaitis et al., 2015](#)).
- Even small mammals such as muskrats, mink, and skunks play crucial roles in wetland health and seed dispersal, meaning their large-scale trapping can disrupt these ecosystems (Davenport et al., 2010).

### 2. The Lack of Science-Based Harvest Limits Endangers Many Species

- The Colorado Trappers and Predator Hunters Association fur auction data shows that species such as bobcats (both Eastern and Western), coyotes, foxes (red, grey, cross, and swift), badgers, and others are harvested in high numbers, without statewide bag limits.
- The commercial sale of wildlife fur incentivizes overharvesting, as shown by the high volume of trapped species, like swift foxes, a species of conservation concern.
- Scientific studies suggest that unlimited trapping can lead to local extirpation, as seen in historical fur trade collapses (Gese et al., 2019).

# Talking Points Continued

## 3. Trapping Methods Remain Problematic Despite Colorado's Leghold Trap Ban

- Colorado banned steel-jaw leghold traps, body-gripping traps, and snares in 1996 through a ballot initiative, but trapping of furbearing species still occurs with box traps and other methods (Colorado Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 12b).
- Non-target species are still at risk, including protected and threatened animals, when indiscriminate trapping occurs for commercially valuable species like bobcats and foxes.
- Even when non-lethal traps are used, mortality rates among released animals remain high due to stress, injuries, and predation post-release (Shivik et al., 2005).

## 4. CPW Sponsorship of Organizations Commercializing Wildlife Parts Undermines Conservation Ethics

- CPW's mission prioritizes conservation, yet its sponsorship of organizations that support the commercial sale of furs incentivizes market-driven exploitation over science-based management (North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, Geist et al., 2001).
- Fur auctions create demand for mass trapping, further pressuring wildlife populations rather than managing them for ecological health.
- The commercial wildlife trade has been linked to increased poaching and trafficking of similar species, as demand for fur encourages illegal take ([Rosen & Smith, 2010](#)).

## 5. Public Opinion Supports Stronger Protections for Colorado's Wildlife

- A majority of Colorado residents oppose unrestricted trapping and support ethical wildlife management policies that prevent overharvesting and cruelty (Colorado Voter Attitudes Survey, 2020).
- Neighboring states, including California and Arizona, have moved toward stricter regulations, including full bans on bobcat trapping, demonstrating a regional shift toward stronger wildlife protections.
- Aligning CPW policies with public sentiment would enhance trust and support for conservation efforts, rather than enabling commercial fur harvesting.

## Amplify Your Advocacy

1.

### Share on social media and tag CPW

- Share your opinion with photos on social media and tag CPW and your local news outlet to spread the word.

2.

### Write a Letter to the Editor

- Use your comments to write your local paper an LTE that can be used to raise awareness in your community.

3.

### Contact Your Local Legislator

- Make sure your state representatives are aware of the issue you are commenting on by forwarding your comments to them with a note. This topic could be legislation one day!