

Lynx Illegally Killed in Bobcat Trap Signals Need to End Fur Trapping of Bobcats in Colorado, citizen coalition says

An estimated 2,000 Colorado bobcats are trapped for fur to sell on the foreign market every year

DENVER, COLORADO, UNITED STATES, January 17, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Cats Aren't Trophies (CATs) reacted to news that bobcat trappers illegally caught and killed a lynx in northwest Montana by reminding Coloradans that lynx remain at heightened risk for injury and death from bobcat traps in Colorado.

CATs is a political committee in Colorado that has filed 2024 ballot language to ban fur trapping of bobcats and trophy hunting of mountain lions. The measure protects lynx, because they have been caught in bobcat traps and killed.

According to [NBC Montana](#), on Dec. 27, one lynx was found dead in the trap, and the other was released the next day.

Christine Capaldo, a veterinarian in Southwestern Colorado offers this statement: "Lynx, a close relative to bobcats, are naturally attracted to bait set for bobcats and are harmed, injured, or killed when caught in traps," said Christine Capaldo, a veterinarian in southwestern Colorado. "Trapping bobcats causes unnecessary pain and suffering to the target animal and also to non-target animals that includes lynx. Please join me to end the archaic and cruel bobcat trapping fur trade in Colorado."

Brett Ochs is a Colorado big game hunter, and offers this statement:

"As a member of Colorado's big game hunting community, I own the responsibility to speak out for ethical hunting, and against the unfair, indiscriminate killing of wildlife," said Brett Ochs, a big game hunter in Colorado and member of the CATs coalition. "Trapping bobcats just to sell their



Colorado bobcat



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fur to China or Russia goes mightily against the North American Model of Wildlife Management, as it is devoid of fair chase, and our wildlife should not be killed for commerce. The fact lynx are getting caught in these traps is horrendous."

Bobcat Trapping Facts:

Colorado allows bobcats to be unethically chased by dog packs – just like mountain lions – and shot for recreation, as well as trapped and skinned by fur trappers who can make \$1,000 on a foreign market in China or Russia.

With a "furbearer" license around \$30, trappers [may kill as many bobcats as they want seasonally](#). They set thousands of traps in our wildlands every year – 4,000 one year alone – and are asked to check traps just once every 24 hours.

There's no database tracking how many animals, or what kind of non-target animals have been trapped, injured, or killed in bobcat traps. We know that wild animals including bald eagles and domestic pets can and have been caught, injured, and killed due to exposure to the elements or while struggling to escape.

There is nothing to prevent mothers with dependent young from being trapped and killed, leaving orphans behind. Both bobcats and mountain lions can and do breed any time of year.

None of it makes any sense, because not only do we not know how many bobcats live in Colorado, but they are not the sole property of fur trappers, who are doing so much damage.

Inhumane and unaccountable methods:

Historically most bobcats are killed by strangulation from a "choke stick," poison, or bludgeoning to death, because trappers say they like to preserve the cleanest pelt. Any rifle, handgun, shotgun, handheld bows, crossbows, or any air gun pre-charged can be used to kill a trapped bobcat on site, according to state guidelines. But there are clear allowances today in Colorado for trappers who wish to bludgeon a bobcat to death and keep the pelt clean from blood that spills after the cat is shot. There is zero oversight of the process in the field.

Trapping unlimited bobcats when we have no statewide data or population count isn't managing anything, not even trappers.

Fur trappers are nothing worth conserving. Consider that 700 trappers kill bobcats each year (0.01% of all Coloradans), and yet they contribute to the largest cause for bobcat mortality.

Summary:

TROPHY HUNTING, TRAPPING AND KILLING BOBCATS: THE METHODS

Hounding And Baiting

The large majority are baited, caught in live cage traps, then killed, for the personal profit of selling the fur on the foreign fur fashion industry market in Russia and China.

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Strangling, Poison And Bludgeoning

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ABOUT:

CATs is a political committee in Colorado that has filed 2024 ballot language to ban trophy hunting of mountain lions and fur trapping of bobcats. The measure also protects lynx, who are sometimes mistaken for bobcats and killed.

CATs believes that trophy hunting of mountain lions and bobcats is cruel and unsporting — a highly commercial, high-tech head-hunting exercise that doesn't produce edible meat or sound wildlife management outcomes, but only orphaned cubs and social chaos among the surviving big cats.

Visit www.catsarenttrophies.org as a comprehensive resource on the campaign to protect Colorado's native wild cats and to preserve their role in delivering ecological services to Colorado.

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