

BANNED BUT NOT GONE: Colorado's wildlife are still dying from leghold traps

BY CLINT TALBOTT AND MELINDA MARQUIS PH.D.

Banned leg-hold traps still slaughter Colorado's wildlife with minimal state oversight, flouting the clear will of voters. The state can easily embrace long-overdue reform to close the loophole, but will it?

Along a creek in western Colorado last year, a rancher killed seven beavers with the help of a leg-hold trap that voters outlawed in 1996. Despite the letter and spirit of the law, there is no documentation of any damage that those beavers might have caused and no indication that the landowner had tried legal methods to deter the beavers. Under a gaping loophole in the state's leg-hold trap ban, the landowner did not need to prove anything. He did not need to share documentation of damage. He could—and did—just trap and kill.

There is no record that Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials ever asked for any documentation of damage or inspected the site. Seven animals that had been shaping the landscape simply disappeared, erased by a device Colorado citizens believed they had banned by passing Amendment 14 nearly three decades ago.

What happened on that creek in 2025 is not unusual. It symbolizes a system that allows indiscriminate traps to be used with almost no accountability. Leg-hold traps are still sold in Colorado stores and still set on private land even though they were banned except for a narrow exemption. Voters intended that exemption to be tightly controlled. **Instead, the exemption has become a quiet backdoor for those who want to kill wildlife without any proof and no guarantee that they are following the law.**

Why Colorado banned these traps in the first place

The cruelty of leg-hold was well-known long before Colorado voters acted. In 1975, former federal trapper Dick Randall testified before Congress that “the leg-hold trap is probably the most cruel device ever invented by man and is a direct cause of inexcusable destruction and waste of our wildlife.”

His warning reflected what Coloradans later saw firsthand: These traps did not just catch target animals. They caught pets, songbirds and any animal unlucky enough to step into their jaws.

By 1996, the public had seen enough. Photos of Alice, a Boulder dog who lost two legs to a leg-hold trap, circulated across the state as citizens gathered signatures for Amendment 14, as **The New York Times reported**. Voters approved the measure to end the suffering caused by leg-hold traps, snares and poisons, allowing their use only in narrow circumstances for farmers and ranchers who had already tried legal methods to address damage from wildlife.

- 4) This proposal allows farmers and ranchers who can demonstrate legitimate, on-going damage to trap, poison, or snare wildlife to protect their property. Thus, these methods are available for one 30-day period, that may be selected at any time during the year, to property owners who have not been able to minimize damage by using firearms or other permitted devices.

Amendment 14's Blue Book analysis, (shown above) which voters use to inform their votes, made the intent clear. The exemption was meant to be temporary, limited and tightly controlled. Lethal traps were supposed to be the last resort, not the first tool pulled off the shelf.

As required, lawmakers drafted legislation to implement Amendment 14 the following year. **That statute allows ranchers and farmers to use leg-hold traps or snares for one 30-day period each year**, but only if Colorado Parks and Wildlife could “verify” that at least two legal methods had already been attempted. That legislation became state law 33-6-208 (shown at right).



This story in the Rocky Mountain News featured a photo of Alice, the Boulder dog who lost two legs after being caught in a leg-hold trap.

Colorado Revised Statutes Title 33, Parks and Wildlife § 33-6-208. Thirty-day period—administration—conditions precedent to use of exemption

(b) The division shall verify that the owner or lessee has made reasonable efforts to alleviate ongoing damage to livestock or crops through reasonable efforts using methods other than those prohibited by section 33-6-203. The use of at least two of the following methods is presumed to represent reasonable efforts:

- (I) Routine gathering of livestock in areas where predators are known to be present;
- (II) The use of guard animals;
- (III) The use of flashing lights, boom guns, or other scare tactics;
- (IV) The presence of human herders or guards;

(V) Any other industry-accepted method that is effective in reducing losses and whose use is approved by the agriculture commission and the parks and wildlife commission for that purpose.

(II) The owner or lessee need not present on-site evidence of damage or of reasonable efforts using alternative methods before commencing trapping, snaring, or poisoning activity, but the owner or lessee shall be prepared to do so upon request of the division at any time within the thirty-day period. The division may, at its option, send an employee or agent to visit the site and verify compliance with the requirements of this section and of section 33-6-207.

Ostensibly, requiring that CPW “verify” that at least two legal methods of control had been attempted is a safeguard, the backbone of the exemption to the trapping ban. It should ensure that banned traps are never used casually, without just cause. That was the implicit promise. **That promise has not been kept.**

Trust but ‘verify’ or blindly trust?

If an agency “verifies” good-faith behavior, it should have documentation: clear, public records showing evidence of that “verification.” Otherwise, the agency essentially says, “Sure, the public can’t confirm that landowners and the agency have acted in good faith. You just have to trust us.”

That’s not how government is supposed to work. Of the people and by the people means answerable to the people.

CPW spokesperson Travis Duncan told **Science for Colorado Wildlife**, a nonprofit that seeks to protect wildlife through science-based education, that proof of ranchers’ exhausting legal methods “is not required to be documented and could be as simple as a conversation between a district wildlife manager and the owner/lessee.”

Ambiguity in the law aids and abets this lax approach to seeking or documenting any evidence of good-faith behavior by landowners. When asked if CPW demanded evidence that landowners had exhausted legal means of damage control, Duncan said “some CPW officers did request this information” and that “documentation exists” in some cases.

“

Proof of ranchers’ exhausting legal methods “*is not required to be documented and could be as simple as a conversation between a district wildlife manager and the owner/lessee.*”

- CPW Spokesperson Travis Duncan

THE PERMITTING FAILURE OF CPW

What should have been vs. What actually was

What the permit should have contained	VS	What the permit actually had
 ✓ Written proof of two non-lethal methods ✓ Specific plan for capture method ✓ Target species identified 		 ✓ No record of legal efforts ✓ Capture method left blank ✓ Target species ?? 
THE IMPACT  Non-targeted wildlife killed  No accountability or transparency  Legal risks are ignored		

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But the “documentation” he cited included only images of dead livestock, which does not show that a landowner had tried legal methods—like shooting, guard dogs or non-lethal deterrents—to control wildlife predation. It shows only that the landowner had suffered some damage.

CPW's interpretation of the law turned a voter-mandated protection on its head. By the time CPW temporarily stopped issuing 30-day-trapping permits last summer, the permit system had become a voluntary, hollow formality.

In dozens of 30-day trapping permit applications released to this nonprofit through the Colorado Open Records Act, the field for “reasonable efforts” (to control wildlife damage through legal means) was left blank. So was the field for “manner of take”—the method by which the animal would be killed.

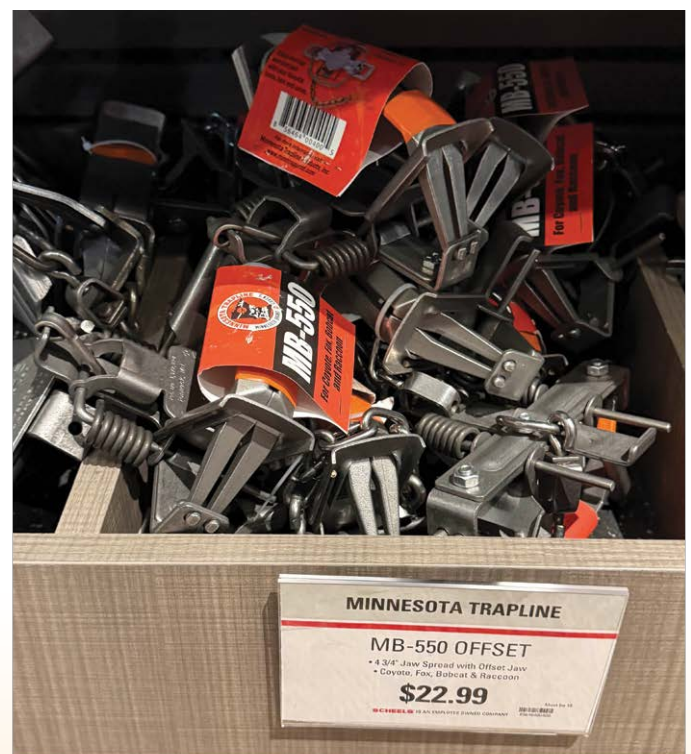
In some cases, the landowner didn't even bother to state the species of animal that was allegedly causing damage. In fact, in the first half of 2025, CPW issued four 30-day-trapping permits that failed to list any of the following: legal, “reasonable efforts” to control damage, the species causing damage, the number of species killed, or the means by which the landowner killed the animals (trap, snare or poison).

Regardless of the blank fields, CPW still issued the permits. **In total, 127 of 197 permit applications from June 2022 to June 2025 contained no record of the two required, prior, legal mitigation efforts.** Twenty-seven percent failed to list the target species.

Without documentation, the public is kept in the dark about whether the law is being followed, whether non lethal methods were attempted or whether lethal traps were justified in the first place. The very mechanism designed to uphold the will of the voters has become one of the weakest links in the system.



Photos taken in 2026 at Scheels show banned snare and leghold traps for sale in Colorado stores—still legal to purchase because of a legislative oversight.



A CASE IN POINT

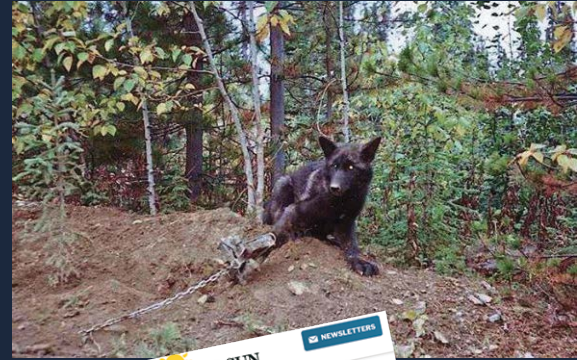
When the system fails Colorado's wolves

Colorado's verification system might have stayed hidden if not for two wolves who paid the price.

In May 2025, wolf 2512, one of the state's newly reintroduced wolves, was caught in a leghold trap set for a coyote on private land. The trapper freed her, but she died the next day. CPW called the device "lawful" and said a 30 day permit had been issued. But the permit fields for "reasonable efforts" and "manner of take" were blank. There was no evidence the landowner had tried the two legal deterrence methods required by statute and the state Constitution. Internal documents later showed CPW halted all 30 day permits because landowners could be liable for accidentally killing an endangered species. The agency never publicly explained the moratorium or the missing documentation.

A year earlier, in 2024, another wolf died the same way. A rancher in Elbert County legally set a leghold trap under the agricultural exemption. Instead of catching a coyote, the trap killed an 84 pound male gray wolf from the federally protected Great Lakes population. Genetic testing confirmed he carried a unique Great Lakes haplotype, the kind of genetic diversity Colorado's small and isolated wolf population urgently needs. His death erased a rare lineage that could have strengthened the long-term health and resilience of wolves in the Rockies. Federal agents opened an investigation. The death exposed the same loophole.

Together, these cases revealed a system that was poorly monitored, inconsistently applied and easy to misuse. They showed how banned traps can still be deployed without evidence, how verification is rarely documented and how little accountability exists for devices voters believed they had removed from Colorado's landscape.



Permit Number: 20615
PRIVATE LAND ONLY
Colorado Parks & Wildlife

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

LANDOWNER'S Name: [Redacted] Phone: [Redacted]
Mailing Address: [Redacted]
City: [Redacted] State: CO ZIP: [Redacted]

TRAPPER'S Name: [Redacted] Phone: [Redacted]
Mailing Address: [Redacted]
City: [Redacted] State: CO ZIP: [Redacted]

Trapping Permit Dates:
Initial Contact Date: 5/25/25
Permitted from: 5/26/25 to 6/25/25 County: Rio Blanco
Township: [Redacted] Range: [Redacted] Section(s): [Redacted]
UTM's: Zone ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ NAD 27 ☐ WGS 83 ☐ WGS 84
Northing (Y): _____ Easting (X): _____
Legal Parcel Description: _____
Special Conditions of Permit: _____

Harvest Information:
Landowner/Trapper must return Yellow Harvest Report to Game Damage Manager, CPW, 2300 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 within 30 days after last day of Permit.
Species Causing Damage: ☐ Beaver ☐ Bobcat ☒ Coyote ☐ Fox ☐ Skunk ☐ Other (list): _____
Reasonable Efforts Made to Alleviate Damage: _____
Species Harvested: 0 Drainage/Location of Trapping: [Redacted]
of Species Harvested: 0 Manner of Take: ☐ Trap ☐ Snare ☐ Poison (type): _____

Issuing AWM / DWM Signature: [Redacted] Badge #: 167
Print Name: [Redacted] Date: 5/25/25

Landowner Signature: [Redacted] 6D Office Use Only:
I certify the above statements are true and I hereby authorize further inquiries to verify these statements.
Print Name: [Redacted] Date: 5/25/25

5015 - Landowner - YELLOW - Trapper/Harvest Report; FPM - CPW, Game Damage Program Assistant, 2300 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401 May 2022

Inside CPW: redactions, secrecy and a broken permit system

After the death of wolf 2512, Colorado Parks and Wildlife quietly stopped issuing 30-day trapping permits. The agency offered no public explanation.

But internal documents released under the Colorado Open Records Act reveal why: CPW was concerned that landowners who inadvertently kill wolves could be held liable for the “accidental capture, injury, or death” of an endangered species. The risk to landowners was real. Public oversight was illusory. The records show a permitting system riddled with gaps. Yet CPW still marked the criteria as satisfied. When Science for Colorado Wildlife requested records of internal discussions about the 30-day permitting system, CPW redacted key portions, obscuring who made decisions, what concerns were raised and how the agency planned to respond. The public was left with silence.

Releasing the information hidden behind the black marks (above) would have caused “substantial injury to the public interest because disclosure would stifle frank and honest discussion between CPW personnel,” Jason Isenhardt, CPW CORA manager, stated.

CPW fully redacted nearly every internal memo related to trapping permits from the CORA request by SCW

From: Black - DNR, Travis on behalf of Black - DNR, Travis <travis.black@state.co.us>
To: Kaemerer - DNR, Kelly
Cc: DNR CPW ExecMgmtTeam; Travis Duncan - DNR; Luke Perkins - DNR; Rebecca Ferrell - DNR
Subject: Re: Follow-up to mortality/trapping press release - input requested by 4 pm today
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 9:59:07 AM

Kelly, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Travis Black
Northwest Region Manager

coordinating with CPW to continue to employ 30 day trapping under the provisions of the constitution in the FAQ/press release.

He feels [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thanks,
Kelly

On Tue, Jul 22, 2025 at 1:35 PM Kaemerer - DNR, Kelly <kelly.kaemerer@state.co.us> wrote:

Hello EMT,

I checked in with Chris B. and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

With no public notice, CPW launched a marginally stricter permitting process on Feb. 1, 2026. The new system requires more documentation, clearer justification and tighter review. But it does not address the core loophole: Landowners are not required to provide evidence that they've exhausted legal means of wildlife deterrence or control before getting a 30-day trapping permit.

Are 30-day permits even required?

CPW's answer is "no." The text of the law buttresses that assertion. Nowhere in the law implementing Amendment 14 is the word "permit" used. Despite public assumptions and the clear implication of Amendment 14, CPW says landowners do not need a permit to use the 30-day exemption.

In an August 2025 memo, the agency stated plainly: "A landowner doesn't need a permit to use the 30-day exception."

So why is there a permitting system? CPW says the permits it has issued were not required by law. Instead, an internal guidance memo explains that CPW issued 30-day permits only "to document compliance with these procedural requirements and to specify and track the dates when the landowner will use otherwise prohibited methods of take." In other words, the permits existed for CPW's desire for record-keeping, not because the law demanded them.

The same memo also warned that ***"at this time, CPW does not endorse the trapping of coyotes in areas where wolves are or may be present."*** It further noted that the 30-day exemption ***"does not provide a shield from liability for the accidental capture or injury to a gray wolf when that capture was foreseeable."***

These internal cautions never appeared in public statements.

CPW spokesperson Travis Duncan confirmed that the agency has informed wool growers, agricultural groups and its own staff that ranchers and farmers are not required to obtain a permit to use the 30-day exemption for leg-hold traps, snares or poisons. Duncan explained the agency's position this way:

"Because 30-day trapping falls under Title 35 and Colorado Department of Agriculture's authority, CPW has a limited part to play in its implementation."

In fact, Title 35 never mentions 30-day trapping. But the Department of Agriculture's regulations, which implement the law, do mention the 30-day-trapping exemption, and those regulations not only mirror the language of Title 33 but also state that the final authority on the 30-day-trapping exemption is CPW, not the Department of Agriculture.

By informing ranchers that they need no permits to use banned traps, CPW promotes a system in which wildlife can be killed with no oversight, no records and no accountability—despite a voter mandate for tight control.

The lack of a statewide permit requirement, and the confusion about which state agency oversees 30-day trapping, helps explain why devices banned in almost all circumstances remain widely available at Colorado sporting-goods and farm-supply stores. If permits are optional and oversight is often non-existent, it's unsurprising that banned traps can be purchased and deployed at will.

While CPW is not required by law to issue permits, CPW's new centralized online application form forces applicants to specify which alternative methods they tried before requesting a 30-day permit. It is a Google form not linked anywhere on CPW's website. According to the agency, the link is provided only when farmers or ranchers ask about permits.

Those who choose to apply for a permit must now affirm that they have attempted legal methods to control wildlife damage before submitting the form. (See *below*.) But there is no guarantee that CPW will review or verify the information.

CPW's new online application form on Google

- ☐ I attest that I have made reasonable efforts to alleviate ongoing damage to livestock or crops using methods other than those prohibited by section 33-6-203.
- ☐ I attest that the information provided in this form is true to the best of my knowledge.

Staff cannot deny a permit if the statutory requirements are met, but they absolutely should audit applications for accuracy and red flags, such as multiple species listed as causing damage without supporting documentation. In fact, 14% of permits issued between 2022 and 2025 listed multiple species as causing damage—often as many as six or even seven species.

Meanwhile, advocates for humane wildlife management have taken notice. Among the documents CPW released through CORA was a **proposed regulatory reform from a wildlife advocate**, which CPW identified only as a private citizen. That proposal would require stronger proof of compliance with Amendment 14's intent and significantly increase CPW oversight.

CPW staff acknowledged receiving the proposal but said they have not shared it with the CPW Commission. The lax oversight remains.

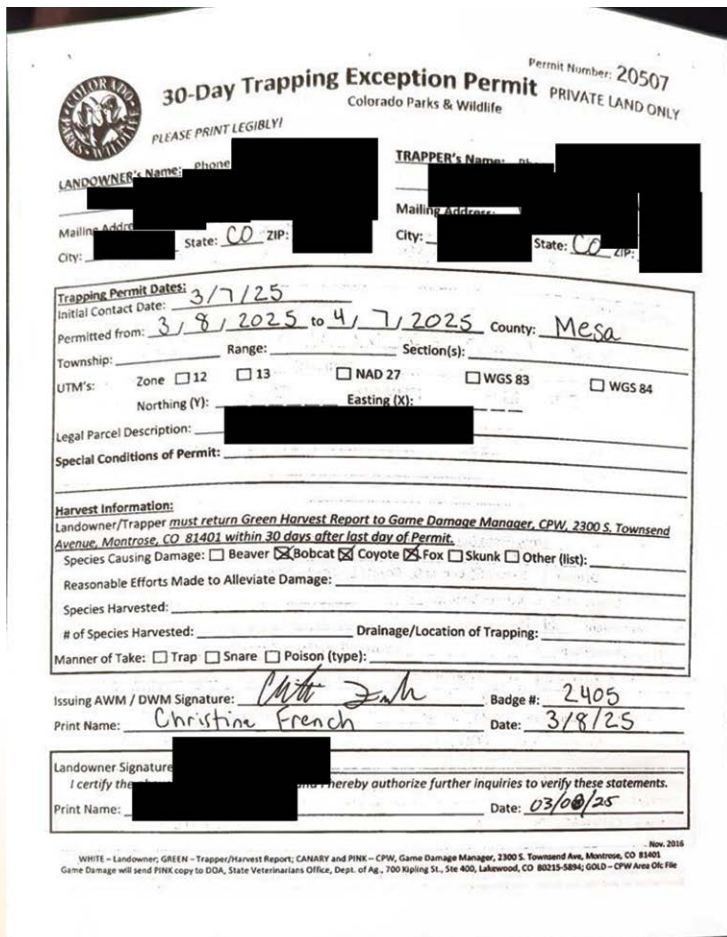
Bigger picture: you can't manage what you don't count

Science for Colorado Wildlife's review of 30-day trapping permits released through CORA shows how easily the agricultural exemption can drift into broad, unfocused and potentially unjustified killing. In March 2025, permit 20507 was issued after a landowner claimed that bobcat, coyote and fox were all causing damage at the same time.

CPW approved lethal control for multiple species without requiring documentation of the specific damage attributed to each species or the non-lethal methods attempted. When permits authorize killing across multiple species without clear evidence of the underlying conflict, trapping becomes indiscriminate rather than targeted.

Permit 20768 illustrates the consequences. The landowner trapped or snared 13 coyotes and 17 raccoons in a single month. It is highly unlikely that all of these animals were responsible for livestock conflicts. It's more likely that the landowner used banned traps and snare to engage in wholesale killing.

In fact, permit 20768 show zero evidence of the landowner's attempt to control the wildlife damage through legal means.



30-Day Trapping Exemption Permit Permit Number: 20507
Colorado Parks & Wildlife PRIVATE LAND ONLY

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

LANDOWNER's Name: [REDACTED] TRAPPER's Name: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED]

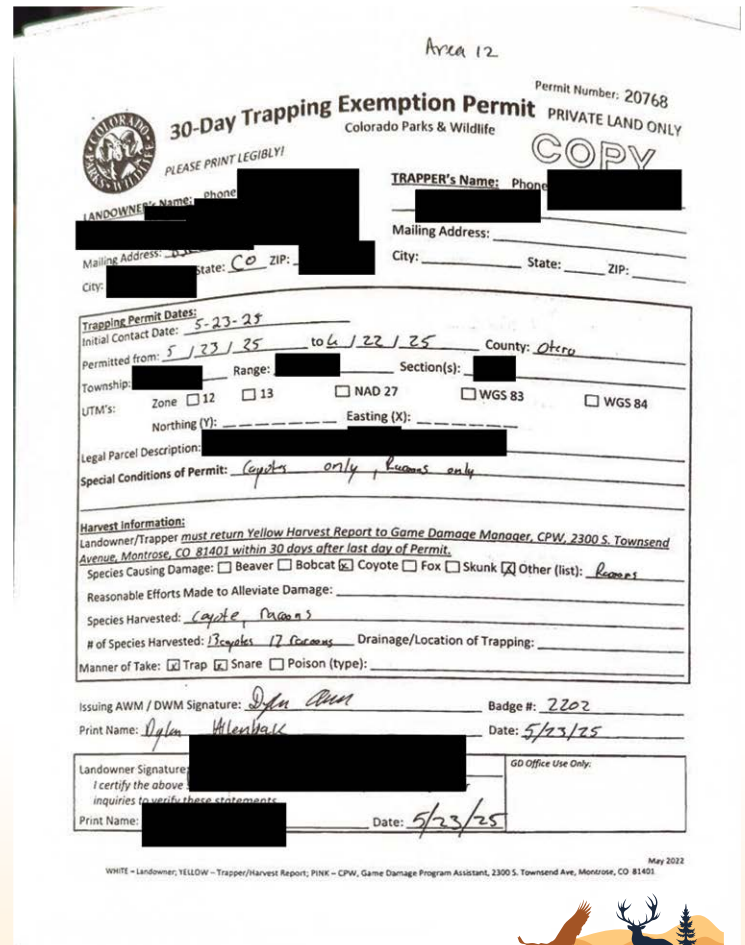
Trapping Permit Dates: 3/7/25
Initial Contact Date: 3/8/2025 to 4/7/2025 County: Mesa
Permitted from: [REDACTED] Range: [REDACTED] Section(s): [REDACTED]
UTM's: Zone ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ NAD 27 ☐ WGS 83 ☐ WGS 84
Northing (Y): [REDACTED] Easting (X): [REDACTED]
Legal Parcel Description: [REDACTED]
Special Conditions of Permit: [REDACTED]

Harvest Information:
Landowner/Trapper must return Green Harvest Report to Game Damage Manager, CPW, 2300 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 within 30 days after last day of Permit.
Species Causing Damage: ☐ Beaver ☒ Bobcat ☒ Coyote ☒ Fox ☐ Skunk ☐ Other (list):
Reasonable Efforts Made to Alleviate Damage: [REDACTED]
Species Harvested: [REDACTED]
of Species Harvested: [REDACTED] Drainage/Location of Trapping: [REDACTED]
Manner of Take: ☐ Trap ☐ Snare ☐ Poison (type): [REDACTED]

Issuing AWM / DWM Signature: [Signature] Badge #: 2405
Print Name: Christine French Date: 3/8/25

Landowner Signature: [REDACTED]
I certify the above and hereby authorize further inquiries to verify these statements.
Print Name: [REDACTED] Date: 03/08/25

Nov. 2016
WHITE - Landowner; GREEN - Trapper/Harvest Report; CANARY and PINK - CPW, Game Damage Manager, 2300 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401
Game Damage will send PINK copy to DOA, State Veterinarians Office, Dept. of Ag., 700 N. 1st St., Ste 400, Lakewood, CO 80215-5894; GOLD - CPW Area Office



30-Day Trapping Exemption Permit Permit Number: 20768
Colorado Parks & Wildlife PRIVATE LAND ONLY

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

LANDOWNER's Name: [REDACTED] TRAPPER's Name: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED]

Trapping Permit Dates: 5-23-25
Initial Contact Date: 5/23/25 to 6/23/25 County: Otter
Permitted from: [REDACTED] Range: [REDACTED] Section(s): [REDACTED]
UTM's: Zone ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ NAD 27 ☐ WGS 83 ☐ WGS 84
Northing (Y): [REDACTED] Easting (X): [REDACTED]
Legal Parcel Description: [REDACTED]
Special Conditions of Permit: Coyotes only, Raccoons only

Harvest Information:
Landowner/Trapper must return Yellow Harvest Report to Game Damage Manager, CPW, 2300 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 within 30 days after last day of Permit.
Species Causing Damage: ☐ Beaver ☐ Bobcat ☒ Coyote ☐ Fox ☐ Skunk ☒ Other (list): Raccoons
Reasonable Efforts Made to Alleviate Damage: [REDACTED]
Species Harvested: Coyotes, Raccoons
of Species Harvested: 13 Coyotes, 17 Raccoons Drainage/Location of Trapping: [REDACTED]
Manner of Take: ☒ Trap ☒ Snare ☐ Poison (type): [REDACTED]

Issuing AWM / DWM Signature: [Signature] Badge #: 2202
Print Name: Dylan Hilsenrath Date: 5/23/25

Landowner Signature: [REDACTED]
I certify the above and hereby authorize further inquiries to verify these statements.
Print Name: [REDACTED] Date: 5/23/25

May 2022
WHITE - Landowner; YELLOW - Trapper/Harvest Report; PINK - CPW, Game Damage Program Assistant, 2300 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401

BANNED BUT NOT GONE:

Colorado's wildlife are still dying from leghold traps

30-Day Trapping Exception Permit
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
PRIVATE LAND ONLY
Permit Number: 20506

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

LANDOWNER'S Name: [REDACTED] TRAPPER'S Name: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED]

Trapping Permit Dates: 2/3/25 to 3/6/2025
Initial Contact Date: 2/4/2025
Permitted from: 2/4/2025 to 3/6/2025 County: Mesa

Township: [REDACTED] Range: [REDACTED] Section(s): [REDACTED]
UTM's: Zone ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ NAD 27 ☐ WGS 83 ☐ WGS 84
Northing (Y): [REDACTED] Easting (X): [REDACTED]

Legal Parcel Description: [REDACTED]
Special Conditions of Permit: [REDACTED]

Harvest Information:
Landowner/Trapper must return Green Harvest Report to Game Damage Manager, CPW, 2300 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 within 30 days after last day of Permit.
Species Causing Damage: ☐ Beaver ☒ Bobcat ☒ Coyote ☒ Fox ☐ Skunk ☐ Other (list):
Reasonable Efforts Made to Alleviate Damage:
Species Harvested: N/A
of Species Harvested: 0
Drainage/Location of Trapping:
Manner of Take: ☒ Trap ☐ Snare ☐ Poison (type):

Issuing AWM / DWM Signature: [Signature] Badge #: 2405
Print Name: Christina French Date: 2/4/25

Landowner Signature: [REDACTED]
I certify the above statements are true and I hereby authorize further inquiries to verify these statements.
Print Name: [REDACTED] Date: 2/4/2025

Nov. 2016
WHITE - Landowner; GREEN - Trapper/Harvest Report; CANARY and PINK - CPW; Game Damage Manager, 2300 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401
Game Damage will send PINK copy to DGA, State Veterinarian Office, Dept. of Ag., 700 Kipling St., Ste 400, Lakewood, CO 80226-0804, GOLD - CPW Area Office

30-Day Trapping Exception Permit
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
PRIVATE LAND ONLY
Permit Number: 20507

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

LANDOWNER'S Name: [REDACTED] TRAPPER'S Name: [REDACTED]
Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED] City: [REDACTED] State: CO ZIP: [REDACTED]

Trapping Permit Dates: 3/7/25
Initial Contact Date: 3/8/2025
Permitted from: 3/8/2025 to 4/7/2025 County: Mesa

Township: [REDACTED] Range: [REDACTED] Section(s): [REDACTED]
UTM's: Zone ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ NAD 27 ☐ WGS 83 ☐ WGS 84
Northing (Y): [REDACTED] Easting (X): [REDACTED]

Legal Parcel Description: [REDACTED]
Special Conditions of Permit: [REDACTED]

Harvest Information:
Landowner/Trapper must return Green Harvest Report to Game Damage Manager, CPW, 2300 S. Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 within 30 days after last day of Permit.
Species Causing Damage: ☐ Beaver ☒ Bobcat ☒ Coyote ☒ Fox ☐ Skunk ☐ Other (list):
Reasonable Efforts Made to Alleviate Damage:
Species Harvested:
of Species Harvested:
Drainage/Location of Trapping:
Manner of Take: ☐ Trap ☐ Snare ☐ Poison (type):

Issuing AWM / DWM Signature: [Signature] Badge #: 2405
Print Name: Christina French Date: 3/8/25

Landowner Signature: [REDACTED]
I certify the above statements are true and I hereby authorize further inquiries to verify these statements.
Print Name: [REDACTED] Date: 03/08/25

Nov. 2016
WHITE - Landowner; GREEN - Trapper/Harvest Report; CANARY and PINK - CPW; Game Damage Manager, 2300 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401
Game Damage will send PINK copy to DGA, State Veterinarian Office, Dept. of Ag., 700 Kipling St., Ste 400, Lakewood, CO 80226-0804, GOLD - CPW Area Office

The law only allows one 30-day exemption per parcel per year, yet it appears this landowner got two consecutive permits in a row by this CPW district manager.

Due to redactions, we cannot verify if the law was violated.

These numbers suggest preventive or opportunistic killing rather than the targeted removal of specific problem individuals. This pattern is not isolated. Permits obtained through CORA show that as many as 13 coyotes and 12 raccoons were killed on one parcel during a 30-day period. Such numbers raise serious concerns about casual killing of wildlife without a clear connection to documented damage. CPW might interpret the law as allowing multiple species to be killed with banned traps, but the text of the law does not support this view.

These problems are compounded by the information CPW does not collect. The law states that landowners must "be able" to present evidence that ongoing damage has not been alleviated by legal methods. Yet the permit forms released through CORA did not require landowners to document the nature of the damage, the evidence observed or the alternative methods attempted. Without this information, neither CPW nor the public can evaluate whether the statutory conditions were met or whether wildlife were killed without the merest hint of justification.

The gaps extend further. **Permit 20507 appears to involve the same landowner who received permit 20506 the previous month for the same species.** The law allows only one 30-day exemption per parcel per year. Because CPW censored parcel information, the public cannot determine whether multiple permits were issued for the same property, in violation of the law. CPW must ensure its permitting system clearly documents and enforces this statutory limit.

These concerns are heightened now that the CPW commission has taken the first step toward prohibiting the commercial sale of fur from many common "furbearer" species. With commercial sale restricted for recreational trapping, the agricultural exemption may become one of the few remaining avenues through which wildlife parts can be legally sold.

The realities of INDISCRIMINATE TRAPPING



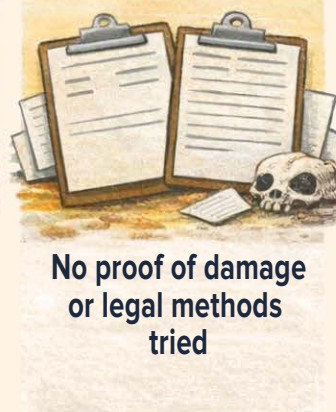
Multiple Species Targeted



High Numbers Killed



No Verification Evidence



Hidden from Oversight



And if depredation permits do not require documentation of damage, evidence of conflict or proof that legal measures are being used preventively, the system risks creating an incentive for excess killing for profit under the guise of livestock protection.

The result is a regulatory inconsistency. Modern wildlife management in Colorado emphasizes targeted removal of the specific animals responsible for conflicts, not indiscriminate killing. Programs addressing wolf depredation, bear conflicts and mountain-lion management focus on identifying the individual animals causing damage and removing only those necessary to resolve the conflict. Of course, use of non-lethal coexistence methods should be adequately used. These are more effective than lethal methods at protecting livestock and crop

The agricultural trapping exemption stands in stark contrast. It allows multiple species to be killed without documentation of the specific damage caused by each species, the evidence observed or the legal methods attempted. One of the largest potential sources of wildlife mortality operates outside the documentation and targeting standards applied throughout the state by CPW.

As Project Coyote's Mark Surls put it: "Because of the agricultural exemption in Amendment 14, fully eliminating body-gripping traps from Colorado landscapes is unlikely. At minimum, Colorado Parks and Wildlife should ensure these devices are used only as a last resort and in the least harmful way possible. What we have seen in the past could not be further from that standard."



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An easy fix

Fortunately, no one must re-invent the wheel to make the system better conform with the will of the voters. The law governing banned traps and the regulations of CPW and the Department of Agriculture have gaping holes. Fortunately, CPW has already received a **proposed regulatory reform** that would require stronger proof of compliance with Amendment 14's intent and would significantly increase CPW oversight.

Under this proposal, CPW would be required to issue permits only when presented with **"documented evidence of actual wildlife or crop depredation by the target species, as verified by a (CPW) officer or designee."** Typically, the officer issuing a permit is a district wildlife officer, and that officer should be apprised of every development in the 30-day-trapping process. Further, the proposal stipulates that **"anticipatory or preventative use without confirmed damage is not permitted."**

The proposal also stipulates that:

- "Applicants must demonstrate that at least two non-lethal conflict prevention methods have been attempted within the past twelve months and failed."
- "All permittees must complete CPW-approved training in humane trapping methods and non-target release, prior to permit issuance."
- Traps will be checked at least once every 12 hours, to reduce the time animals are suffering.
- Permittees will submit a daily electronic check that specifies trap check times, captured species, disposition of animals (released, killed or died in trap).

The wildlife commission should review and adopt this measure. And it should go one step further: It should amend its regulations to state clearly, and once and for all, that anyone who uses a banned leg-hold trap, snare or poison must hold a permit.

In so doing, the commission would say “no” to indiscriminate, untargeted killing. And it would show due deference to and respect for the will of the people.

Anything less would further insult the people and the wildlife of Colorado.

We call on CPW to confront the failures outlined in this report. Reject redactions.

- Institute meaningful oversight.
- Verify compliance with Amendment 14.
- Be open and transparent with records.

Only full disclosure can ensure the public that violations of law are not occurring.

Why we work:

Colorado's growth is squeezing wildlife out of their homes. Habitat loss, hunting pressures, and climate change are driving biodiversity decline. Since 1970, **73% of wildlife populations worldwide have disappeared**, and Colorado's ecosystems are under the same threats.

What we do:

- **Bridge science and action:** Turn research into real conservation solutions.
- **Defend wildlife with compassion:** Reduce suffering and safeguard habitat.
- **Empower decision-makers:** Share data with policymakers to strengthen protections.
- **Challenge harmful laws:** Confront statutes that enable exploitation and killing.
- **Educate and inspire:** Build public awareness for ethical stewardship.

How to help:

- **Follow us & share:**  Follow us on Facebook 
- **Donate** to help us fulfill our mission.
- **Volunteer & Advocate:** Join our campaigns, share knowledge, and speak up for wildlife.

