Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project

Vote No on HB25-1258 Scientific Wildlife Management

Representative Story & Representative Velasco

The Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project (CWCP) respectfully requests a "NO" vote on HB 25-1258, Scientific Wildlife Management.

CWCP strongly supports the use of sound science in Colorado Parks & Wildlife's (CPW) administration of wildlife management. As the premier fish and game agency in the west for over a century, CPW currently employs hundreds of scientists and wildlife biologists to manage Colorado's wildlife.

Unfortunately, HB 25-1258 is a thinly veiled bill aimed at reducing Colorado's long history of utilizing hunting and angling as a primary wildlife management tool and undercuts CPW's ability to determine what constitutes the best available science and to utilize their own targeted data and research. Similar bills have been introduced by anti-hunting organizations across the country as part of a national strategy to reduce the role of hunter and angler harvest in wildlife management.

Why Vote No?

- HB 25-1258 seeks to alter the current wildlife management system by changing the statutory requirement that CPW "shall" utilize hunting and angling as a wildlife management tool to a lesser standard of "may authorize" – which confuses CPW's management mission.
- Currently, CPW faces no limitations on their ability to utilize a wide range of wildlife management tools for the benefit of all of Colorado's wildlife including threatened, endangered and non-game species.
- Because "the best available science" is often subjective and is not defined in the bill, it exposes CPW to frivolous lawsuits from anti-hunting organizations who are more and more commonly cherry-picking research and developing their own scientific reports.
- It does not recognize the value of data collected and interpreted by CPW's professional field biologists and researchers. The biggest threat to the Commission and CPW's wildlife professionals comes not from a lack of scientific know-how, but from political interference and outside influence.
- This bill could inadvertently stifle the advancement of wildlife science and the application of scientific hypothesis. The best science available today was only an idea yesterday.
- Reducing the role of hunter and angler harvest may result in revenue losses to CPW, which is almost entirely funded by license sales.

HB 25-1258 is a social solution in search of a scientific problem that does not exist within CPW, which is why the agency is not asking for this bill. Please uphold our commitment as a state to allow CPW to determine what best management practices are.

CPW's success is largely attributable to their adherence to the standards of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which has chartered the conservation success stories for all 50 state game and fish agencies across the country. Please continue your and the public's support for sound wildlife management and Colorado's long history of responsible and legal hunting and fishing. Please vote "NO" on HB 25-1258.

Sincerely, members of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project:

The Wildlife Conservation Project (CWCP) is an alliance of diverse wildlife organizations with a common interest in conserving wildlife and wildlife habitats, and in preserving our hunting, angling, and conservation heritage. We are steadfast in our efforts to continue the state's long history of responsible, science-based wildlife management. CWCP is comprised of 22 organizations and 10 individual professional members, collectively representing tens-of-thousands of outdoor enthusiasts across the state. From the field to the Capitol, CWCP is a united voice for hunters, anglers, and wildlife conservation.

For more information please contact us at:

www.CoWildlifeConservationProject.org | COWildlifeConservationProject@gmail.com | (970) 846-0669