

February 2025 Wildlife report, by David H. McCord.
To Sunday, March 2

Events:

March 5 & 6 CPW Commission meeting, 6060
Broadway, CPW HQ. Major wildlife and firearms
issues.

April 24, noon, Sportsmen's Day at the Capital, wild
game feed on the east lawn of the Capital, rain or
shine.

Gun talk program on AM radio KLZ 560, Saturday
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM repeated Sunday, 8:00 AM - 9:00
AM and Thursday 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM.

Collector Gun. Show, Greeley, Thursday May 15 (set
up), Friday VIPs, public May 17 and 18, Saturday
and Sunday, please see Ron Mann for our booth, help
him as volunteers for CSMLA+booth.

Wolves:

Colorado Advocates for Smart Wolf Policy. Via
initiative this group would close the mandate to
import wolves changing the end date ". . . AND
END REINTRODUCTIONS OF GRAY WOLVES
BY DECEMBER 31, 2026". They are preparing an
initiative and are seeking petitioners.

North Park: Non collared, non-released wolf killed a
1000 lb cow per CPW. "The depredation is believed
to have been committed by a wolf that is not part of
the Colorado reintroduction effort and is not collared
in the North Park area . . . conclusion as no collared
wolf data are present in that area." – Ft. Collins
Coloradan

CPW Commission vacancies:

Two open spots, four candidates (two are incumbents
who are applying), will go before the Senate Ag
committee then on to the full Senate.

Bears:

Our bear population is 17,000 to 20,000. CPW
relocated 68 problem bears and euthanized 98 in
2024. Bears are smart and will return to where they
were or otherwise got into trouble breaking into cars,
garages, trash, bird feeders, pet food, etc. I believe
CPW uses three strikes and out, 1st and 2nd problems
the bear gets ear tags, 3rd time, out. Voters
prohibited Spring bear hunts years ago. Tags were
available for \$1 a couple years back.

Pittman Robertson excise, Trump/Musk DOGE
people are nosing around this long-established
wildlife benefit fund.

Legislation:

(gun bills can be tracked here:

<https://rmgo.org/billwatch/>), below bills are in
motion, none have made full approval. I encourage
you to call your representatives, senators, and Gov.
Polis to express opposition or support as they do keep
track and even if bill's destiny is certain, let the
elected know your perspectives.

SB25-003, another semiautomatic weapons ban;
would have required magazines to be fixed to the
rifle. As amended, fixed provision is deleted and
now a purchaser must complete a firearms class akin
to the hunting license and CCR classes required to
purchase a semiauto. Prohibits rapid fire devices.
CPW not ready to host classes if bill is effective in
Sept.

SB25-158, state disposal of weapons, surplus state-
owned arms, confiscated and similar, to be destroyed.

HB25-1062 theft of a firearm becomes a class 6
felony. This follows from bill last year that made a
firearm owner guilty if an unsecured firearm is stolen
from their vehicle, that owner's crime had a greater
penalty than the thief – my grasp anyway. Now, bill
makes thief guilty of a greater crime.

HB25-1164. (Appears to do away with need to obtain
a concealed carry permit?) "A person who carries a
concealed handgun without a permit has the same
rights, limitations, and authority to carry as a person
who holds a permit." Also makes concealed carry
permit for a lifetime, otherwise redo 5 years. Not
likely to go anywhere.

HB25-1128, creates income tax credit equal to the
purchase price of a firearm safety device up to \$200.
A firearm safety device is designed to store a firearm
under lock, a gun safe. (You buy one, you get a \$200
tax credit.)

HB25-1133 minimum age 21 to purchase or receive
ammo and ammo display must be behind counter.
Would hamper a student from purchasing a box of
.22s for range use, shoot rodents, 4H and Scouts
shooting classes.

HB25-1055 repeals act of last year that firearms
dealer must also hold a state permit to deal in
firearms. Only one sponsor, will not go anywhere.

HB25-1238 Gun show requirements, among others,
each show table vendor must hold a dealer FFL, hold
a state gun dealer license, certify compliance with all

laws, ammo is in secured display, arms are secured to tabletop or wall, show organizer holds liability insurance and provides security. Horrible bill and is continued efforts by the Dem anti-gun legislators. My hope is this one will be amended to make it so horrible it will be denied.

HB25-1170 Lobbying by Nonprofit Entities, for a charitable tax-exempt nonprofit entity, a new category for nonprofits and free of registration and disclosure requirements. (I am toying with given the intense battles and increased sensitivities with return of the CATs people from initiative 127.) Legislators may look at comments from lobbyists when they vote on bills where they seek recommendations.

HB25-1258 (bad bill) Scientific Wildlife Management, (CPW's statutes) deletes word "shall" use hunting, trapping, and angling and inserts word "may" use hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary methods of effecting wildlife harvests. Also adds ". . . use of the best available science to manage wildlife and ecological science to adopt rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health." Best is not defined and could lead to challenging lawsuits. Trapping, hunting and angling could cease as management tools and substitute who knows what. The CATs people that pushed the defeated initiative 127 of last year are behind this.

HB25-1053, provides immunity and protects land-owners from civil liability who allow access to their property for emergency entry and exit such as in search and rescue of injured people.

HB25-1215, redistributes lottery GOCO funds, changes who gets what, recreation, education, and wildlife.

SB25-038, protects personal information from ranchers who claim depredation funds for wolf kills and injury. They have been subject to harassment when they apply as their name are available via Colorado's Open Records Act.

SB25-053, protect wild bison, American Indian Affairs Interim Study; classifies bison as big game wildlife unless they are livestock. CPW would manage, set seasons, and license fees. Does not mean bison would be imported though they might wonder in (Utah, Wyo.?).

HB25-1022, changes sentencing for theft of a firearm irrespective of gun value

HB 1128, creates tax credit to \$200 for purchase of arms security (gun safe).

HB25-???? draft, not yet submitted, for violating wildlife trafficking laws. [requires CPW to conduct investigations and surveys and collect information and data related to wildlife trafficking and determine appropriate law enforcement measures. Wildlife trafficking is #4 after, trafficking in humans, drugs, and guns. Wildlife here covers live lions, tigers, endangered species, also bear gall bladders, will need to allow import of legal trophies. Would not cover poached deer or elk or too many fish caught.]

Colorado Advocates for Smart Wolf Policy in title setting process. petitions this spring and need to collect 200,000 signatures in 2025 to be on the Nov. 2026 ballot. New language, AND END REINTRODUCTIONS OF GRAY WOLVES BY DECEMBER 31, 2026, .. To donate or help this grassroots effort:
<https://www.efundraisingconnections.com/c/ColoradoAdvocatesforSmartWolf>

The Colorado nonprofit that spearheaded the ballot initiative to reintroduce wolves in 2020 is asking wolf advocates to pony up in defense of the predator and hope to raise \$500,000 for nonlethal wolf-livestock conflict minimization tools for ranchers, including fladry (flagging), drones, livestock guardian dogs, range riders, and sound and auditory scare devices. Really?