

CITIZEN PETITION FORM

Date: 3-7-2024

Issue:	Expansion of Bag limits on Yellow Bellied Marmot
Which rule are you seeking to create or revise? Please include a copy of the rule you are proposing to create or change, preferably with the change made in redline format.	
<p>It is proposed that the bag limits for the yellow bellied marmot are expanded.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MARMOT SEASON: Aug. 10–Oct. 15, annually DAILY BAG LIMIT: 2 5 POSSESSION LIMIT: 4-10</p>	
Why are you seeking to create or revise this rule? Please include a general statement of the reasons for the requested rule or revision and any relevant information related to the request.	
<p>I am pleased to resubmit this petition as new evidence to support this petition has been provided by an expert in the field. In the last petition it was stated that the population is very healthy and could use an expansion of limits in order to better manage the species. When proposed initially, the opposition was that there was no data to suggest that the population was large, and that bag limits in place have been there a long time so there is no need to change them. In addition it was argued that a single citizen's request should be dismissed until there is a larger population of unsatisfied people.</p> <p>Currently CPW director Jeff Davis and several legislators and experts have come out in support of new legislation to re-introduce the Wolverine into Colorado. They have an expert that says the population of marmots is too large and in need of management. If Jeff Davis is in support of this legislation it stands to reason he supports the validity of the claims made by experts in the field of ecology</p> <p>"Stefan Ekernass, director of Colorado field conservation for the Denver Zoo, told CBS News that wolverines could play an important ecological role by preying on the state's burgeoning marmot population. "The reality is, we're missing a predator of that species," said Ekernass.</p> <p>Stefan Ekernass is an acknowledged expert with a PhD in wildlife biology holding a masters degree in ecology, conservation and wildlife management. His opinion is being considered as support for the new wolverine legislation. The characterization of the population as burgeoning (which is defined as thriving and rapidly growing) as well as the statement that there is a need for a predator to manage these quickly growing populations refutes CPW's recommendation of denial. It provides strong evidence in support of both claims made that the population is in need of updated management, as well as the claim there are plenty of animals to support an increase in bag limits.</p> <p>Expanding bag limits would absolutely address this apparent and known issue of a lack of</p>	

predator presence to manage a rapidly growing population of marmots. CPW has stated that 400 marmot hunters is a substantial number, thus supporting the claim that they would help to manage the marmot when bag limits are increased. I also add that 400 hunters is a low enough number to not interfere with wolverine food sources. CPW biologists state that Colorado can support about 100-180 Wolverines a substantial number considering USFWS estimates a total of 400 in the lower 48 states.

Petitioner's name:

David Spies