

WHAT **AMENDMENT 83** REALLY DOES

Amendment 83 is billed as a “constitutional right to hunt and fish.” Hunting and fishing aren't at risk in Colorado. **Out-of-state special interests like the NRA** are pushing to permanently change our constitution for all of us.

Here's what it could mean for you:

1. **Shooting and hunting could come closer to your neighborhood.** Right now, your city or county can restrict where people shoot and hunt to protect homes, parks, and trails. 83 would make hunting the constitutional “preferred means” of managing wildlife — which could put that safety at legal risk.

Examples: Boulder County limited firearm discharge near the Sugarloaf community (2024); Colorado Springs declined a deer hunt inside city limits over safety concerns (2018).



2. You and your local government could lose control. Coloradans shape wildlife policy through ballot initiatives, and cities and counties set local rules today. 83 could **restrict future citizen initiatives** and expose local wildlife decisions to legal challenge — moving them from your community **into the courts.**



3. It reaches beyond “hunt and fish” — it includes trapping. Under Colorado law, “hunt” includes trapping, and 83 protects undefined “traditional methods.” That could put two parts of the constitution in conflict — the trapping limits Colorado voters already approved in 1996 and 83’s new language — leaving courts to reconcile them.

For example, beavers are Colorado’s natural water engineers because their dams store water and buffer drought and wildfire. Generations of unlimited trapping destroyed that natural water storage. Restoring beavers to rebuild it is one of the cheapest tools we have, and by making trapping a constitutional mandate, 83 could stand in the way.

4. It would lock one approach into the constitution. Wildlife needs many tools: habitat protection, coexistence, disease response, species recovery. 84 would name hunting the “preferred” method, which is very hard to change as science and needs evolve.

5. It’s built on undefined terms — so courts, not voters, would decide. 83’s key phrases — “preferred means,” “traditional methods,” “necessary” — are never defined. The state’s own reviewers flagged the vagueness, and the language stayed. Because these words would become permanent constitutional text, judges would decide what they mean — through litigation paid by wildlife agencies, taxpayers, and local governments.

6. Public lands belong to all of us. Hikers, families, birdwatchers, cyclists, skiers, anglers, and hunters all share Colorado’s outdoors. 83 would give one small group of users a constitutional status the others don’t have.



A CHANGE TO COLORADO’S CONSTITUTION IS PERMANENT AND HARD TO UNDO. WHEN THE LANGUAGE IS UNCLEAR, THE SAFEST IS **VOTE NO AMENDMENT 83.**

Ask your city council and county commissioners to take a stand, too.

*Paid for by Stop the Constitutional Power Grab.
Sources available on request.*

VOTE NO AMENDMENT 83



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