

2017 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1377

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau –A Room, State Capitol

HB 1377

2/2/2017

27846

☐ Subcommittee

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Kathleen Davis

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the taking of coyotes; and to provide and expiration date.

Minutes:

Attachments #1 - #9

Chairman Porter: Called the committee to order on HB 1377.

Rep. Dan Johnson presented HB 1377 with testimony in Attachment #1.

Rep. Anderson: Would this allow hunting by air too?

Johnson: I suppose as a mechanized vehicle it could.

Rep. Ruby: I don't have an issue getting up to a coyote or someone flushing them out, but not running them down with a snowmobile. Is this allowing that?

Johnson: Someone showed me a picture of a tank, could you use that? I don't envision running them over either.

Rep. Lefor: You say they cause more than \$1 million in livestock losses, from coyotes?

Johnson: Yes

Chairman Porter: In the mechanized vehicle component, have you had any discussion to other species when a person engages in this type of activity. The snow will have to be deep or using 4-wheelers or UTV's to run these little critters over, so all other species they'll be flushing, that they normally couldn't, or as readily because of walking to move the game, you drive a vehicle through a pasture and you kick up all the grouse, a few deer, and other species, when they're at the midpoint of winter and stressed already, have you thought about it from that standpoint?

Johnson: I didn't see too much of a distinction between a snowmobile and walking through the woods. We could address that or amend.

Chairman Porter: In regards to the spotlight, Game and Fish in this year's proclamation changed that, they allow night vision equipment on public and private land. We're you aware of that to allow the potential enhancements of shooting these wily things?

Johnson: Yes. However, the average farm kids don't have \$2000 for night vision optics. The spot light seems like a more viable option.

Paul Henderson, farmer, presented Attachment #2 in support. Requesting a Do Pass.

Chairman Porter: Questions? The way the bill reads now on Line 8, you can chase them, shoot them, and kill them with a mechanized vehicle. You're saying we should remove kill, take or attempt to take a coyote, and to shoot and kill, and say they can just pursue?

Henderson: No, I would say the intent is to pursue and shoot.

Chairman Porter: Pursue and shoot, but stop the vehicle.

Henderson: Correct. We can limit it to one person on a machine, that's fine. The intent of this was to use mechanized ground vehicles.

Rep. Ruby: Why would you want to limit it to 18? Wouldn't that limit the amount of hunters? My younger brothers hunt coyote way more because they have more time. If you limit it to 18, that cuts out a big pool of people that are going to take down coyotes.

28:35

Henderson: I used that 18 because there's a lot of other things that are limited to 18 years.

Rep. Roers Jones: You said maybe limit this to one person per machine. I'm thinking rangers? If you had someone driving, and a passenger, then we would have a problem there. Do you want to limit that situation?

Henderson: I was talking mostly about snowmobiles. I guess we could clarify that and say side by sides you could have a driver.

Rep. Roers Jones: I think with your proposed amendment that the vehicle is not moving when shooting, then you wouldn't have the situation where you have a driver and a shooter.

Marty Beard, member of several hunting and trapping organizations but is not representing any of them today. Attachment #3 in support.

35:29

Rep. Jeff Magrum, Dist. 28. Spoke in favor of the bill to have more tools to get the coyotes. After the fur is shedding on a coyote they're not out there thinning them down. Won't cost the government any money. They eat a lot of pheasants. The older ones are too smart. You can get the younger ones. We hardly see a fox anymore because the coyotes get them.

Rep. Heinert: You made a comment about your land? This is more of an open hunting bill. Are you interested in your own land, or anybody's property?

Magrum: I'm for opening it up. Get permission to go on other people's land. Coyotes cover a lot of ground and have a large territory. Maybe give the Game and Fish some discretion on that.

Chairman Porter: Further testimony in support? In opposition?

40:00

Stepahnie Tucker, Game Management Section Leader and Furbearer Biologist of ND Game and Fish Dept. Attachment #4 in opposition.

42:07

Rep. Anderson: Do you have any numbers of deer that died in 2011 from winter conditions? There's no doubt the severe winter were causing the deer decline in those years. Can you get that information?

Tucker: I do not off the top of my head. I can get that for you.

Chairman Porter: I have a question inside of 20.1-07-04, the land owner using that section and allowing someone else on their land to do that, is your opinion I could tell you to come out to my land, use a spotlight and shine and shoot a coyote? Or drive up to them and shoot them off a UTV, that that's something a landowner could already give permission to do?

Tucker: Yes, that's how the department interprets the law. We developed guidelines in 1993 associated with that law and clearly states they can use spotlights at night if they're working as an agent for the landowner having problems.

Chairman Porter: okay. Theirs is really only provision in our law about shooting from a vehicle, that's directly related to shooting at a coyote where it is legal to shoot out of a vehicle. So someone could drive a UTV across my pasture, and have the front window open and stop and shoot right now legally with my permission.

Tucker: that is correct.

Rep. Heinert: Can you under the 20.1-07-04, it talks about problems with coyotes themselves. You said you have established rules. As part of those rules, does it establish what the problem or how large the problem has to be for a rancher to obtain this or just say, we have a problem and we're going to take care of it?

Tucker: Yes, our guidelines state they have to have a demonstrated problem. We recommend they work out what they're going to do with their local game warden, so he's aware of those kinds of activities are going to be taking place.

Rep. Mitskog: For the proposed legislation, the intent, if it's already allowable, to allow them to hunt on landowner's property if there's a problem. In your opinion what is the intent of the legislation if it's already allowed?

Tucker: From listening, I think initially, low deer numbers. We've done a lot of research in the last 6-7 years and are well aware that severe winters have an impact. We also know coyotes have an impact on deer in certain areas of the state. Habitat is the issue here in our opinion, not coyotes. A better long term development, in our opinion, would be habitat development and not more liberalization of our fairly generous coyote regulations.

Rep. Roers Jones: You referenced 20.1-07-04 talks about if you have depredation happening of poultry, domestic animals, crops, you could use these other methods for taking a coyote. What about the deer population if you have a large area of land you use for hunting for your family, your friends, would it be appropriate to contact the Game and Fish and ask for permission to hunt coyotes out of season if you're concerned about the deer population?

Tucker: Like I mentioned before, we prefer the long term solution to deer management and increasing our deer numbers via habitat driven objective and not reducing a few coyotes in one year. Coyotes are very adaptable and prolific, and will fill in those holes very quickly. It's not a very feasible long term solution helping deer cover.

47:55

Chairman Porter: Inside this code, you aren't picking up the animal and selling it. A landowner can authorize them to do it or do it themselves. You leave the animal lay and eradicating the depredation problem. The furbearer season doesn't have an ending or opening date. It closes for a second or millisecond, once a March.

Rep. Bosch: What can't you do under current law this bill would allow you to do?

Tucker: You can't use spot lights to aid in the taking of coyotes for hunting and commercializing purposes (sell the pelts), you cannot pursue from a vehicle, chase or shoot from a moving vehicle under current regulations. That's in the fur harvester regulations. If you're a livestock owner protecting your livestock, there's leeway to use some of those methods if you have a problem with livestock loss or crop depredation.

Rep. Bosch: Or your agent

Tucker: That's correct

Chairman Porter: as long as you leave the animal lay.

49:55

Mike McEnroe, ND Wildlife Federation, presented Attachment #5 in opposition to HB 1377.

52:09

Phil Mastrangelo, Mandan, ND presented Attachment #6 in opposition.

55:57

TJ Jerke, ND Humane Society, Bismarck. Presented Attachment #7. We agree with the ND Game and Fish and the ND Wildlife Federation. I'm for all the many aspects they pointed out in regards to fair chase and hunting, and requested a Do Not Pass.

Gary Masching, Bismarck, retired law enforcement officer. I agree with everything said against this bill. Right now you can hunt 24/7. You can chase with dogs, hunt at night, almost any type of weaponry, there's a coyote catalog with the ag department, and Game and Fish, where hunters and landowners can connect. You can use electronic calls. There's lots of methods to control coyotes right now. I can see trespass issues, fences being cut, not to mention the rider on the snowmobile in the heat of hot pursuit running into a fence or hitting a rock and then you've got injury on someone's land. This activity is almost barbaric, unethical and no business in hunting circles. I would ask everyone, have you ever seen an animal run over with a snowmobile? It isn't pretty at the end.

Scott Evans, Granville, ND Furtakers Association, ND Hunter and Trappers Association. Attachment #8 in opposition.

Bill Helpfrey, ND Bow Hunters Association. Most everything's been discussed. The one thing that jumps out at me is the marriage of mechanized vehicle and pursue. I used to be in the snowmobile business years ago and I know some of these snowmobiles are capable of speeds well over 100 mph. What's the safety factor here? You pursue a coyote, at night, on land you're not familiar with, and the coyote will just go through a barb wire fence like it wasn't even there. Are you going to see it in time? I think this bill other than being a bill to kill coyotes, it's a recipe for disaster that will happen someplace and sometime.

Rich Tischaefter, president, ND Fur Hunters and Trappers Association, presented Attachment #9.

Chairman Porter: Questions? Any further testimony in opposition? Seeing none we will close the hearing on HB 1377.

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau –A Room, State Capitol

HB 1377
2/3/2017
27862

- ☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Kathleen Davis

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the taking of coyotes; and to provide and expiration date.

Minutes:

Attachment #1 (yellow sheet)

Chairman Porter: Called the committee to order on HB 1377. I want to reemphasize a component that came up during the hearing that a landowner can basically do all of the things that are in this bill. The landowner can authorize his agent to almost all of the things in this bill. The big difference is this bill would allow that person to sell the fur off the coyote. Where the depredation component of Game and Fish law, you can do all these things but cannot take possession of the animal and sell the animal. If this is truly a depredation bill then all of the components exist in law. If this is to open it up so you can run a coyote over with a snowmobile and then sell it, that's what you're deciding on. Discussion.

Vice Chairman Damschen: I'm going to propose the amendment anyway, Attachment #1, which limits to 18 years of age. Can't shoot until the mechanized vehicle is stopped.

Chairman Porter: We have a motion for the amendment on the piece of paper passed out from Mr. Henderson. It basically makes the mechanized vehicle stopped.

Rep. Ruby : Second.

Chairman Porter: All those in favor say Aye. Opposed. Motion fails.

Rep. Lefor: I move a Do Not Pass.

Rep. Bosch: Second.

Chairman Porter: Motion from Rep. Lefor, second from Rep. Bosch for a Do Not Pass on HB 1377. Any discussion? Seeing none a roll call vote was taken.
Yes 13 No 0 Absent 1 Carrier is Rep. Anderson.

Date: 2-3-17

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1377

House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or
Description: _____

Recommendation

- ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions

- ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep Damschen Seconded By Rep Ruby

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter			Rep. Lefor		
Vice Chairman Damschen			Rep. Marschall		
Rep. Anderson			Rep. Roers Jones		
Rep. Bosch			Rep. Ruby		
Rep. Devlin			Rep. Seibel		
Rep. Heinert					
Rep. Keiser			Rep. Mitskog		
			Rep. Mock		

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor
Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

for the mechanized vehicle to be stopped.

Date: 2-3-17Roll Call Vote #: 2

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1377

House Energy & Natural Resources Committee☐ SubcommitteeAmendment LC# or
Description: _____

Recommendation

- ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions ☐ Reconsider ☐ _____

Motion Made By Rep. Lefor Seconded By Rep. Bosch

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter	✓		Rep. Lefor	✓	
Vice Chairman Damschen	✓		Rep. Marschall	✓	
Rep. Anderson	✓		Rep. Roers Jones	✓	
Rep. Bosch	✓		Rep. Ruby	✓	
Rep. Devlin	✓		Rep. Seibel	✓	
Rep. Heinert	✓				
Rep. Keiser	✓		Rep. Mitskog	✓	
			Rep. Mock	AB	

Total (Yes) 13 No 0Absent 1Floor
Assignment Rep. Anderson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1377: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1377 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2017 TESTIMONY

HB 1377

#1
HB1377
2-2-17
Johnson

HB 1377 - Deregulate Coyote Hunting

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee 2/2/2017

Rep. Daniel Johnston

Intro

Growing up in a hunting family the start of deer rifle season was almost like a holiday. Many of my class mates took the day off of school and sleep was hard to be had the night before. The hunting tradition was flourishing and the cost to hunt was reasonable. Unfortunately, for my children, this is no longer the case. The amount of Deer tags the state of ND issues is getting fewer and fewer and the cost for that tag continues to rise. I received a deer lottery tag in 2016, it was my first in four years. My son did not receive one. Much to my dismay I heard him say he may sell his deer rifle as it has become a mere dust collector. I don't blame his discouragement; how can he get excited about hunting in North Dakota when Game and fish has turned it into such an uncertain endeavor.

Culprit

Coyotes have proliferated in recent years and not surprisingly the deer populations have shrunk. The North Dakota Agriculture department routinely estimates that coyotes cause more than \$1 million worth of livestock losses in a year, think about all the unreported losses. I do believe there is a solution to the decreasing deer population though.

Problem/Solution

Current century code stipulates that coyotes can be hunted with a flashlight as long as it does not have a battery larger than 6 volts and that you can only use that light on your own premises. I'm in violation of the law if I cross over into my neighbor's land with that flashlight. Something that needs be understood about coyotes is that when other animals are struggling because of loss of grasslands or fermentation; the coyote population seems to flourish and can withstand a lot of human disturbance. They are like cockroaches that multiply with large liters of up to ten pups. Let's let hunters use the flashlight of their choice on any piece of land they have permission to hunt on and also allow them to use a mechanized vehicle such as a snowmobile if they so choose. If these new provisions become law and they prove not to be advantageous to either the coyote or deer population then we can let the law die by sunset.

Worthy Tradition

If this bill becomes law, a little bit of deregulation will take place, but I assume that's why North Dakotans elected us. As the coyotes only known predator it is our job to restore some balance to the gaming world and help give the deer of this state a fighting chance, the rancher's animals a good night sleep, and save the hunting tradition that many of us love from extinction.

Please vote YES on HB 1377.

#2

Henderson
HB 1377
2-2-17

Deer numbers are down in ND.

Deer licenses numbers are down.

2011-- 110,000

2012-- 65,300

2103-- 59,500

2014 -- 48,000

2015-- 43,275

2016— 49,000

Hunting success numbers are down from 75% to 50%.

With the reduction of licenses, there is a danger of losing the legacy of hunting in North Dakota. We all know of many hunters who haven't gotten a deer tag for several years in a row. They quit hunting, and quit taking their children hunting. The legacy of hunting will be lost if this trend continues. And that's what gives our population the interest and desire to keep and bear arms. To me, this is a travesty and a real threat to our quality of life here in North Dakota.

We have had the perfect storm here in ND with less CRP. We have always thought of habitat as food, water and shelter. I want to focus on the shelter part. As the CRP went away, the protection from predators went away. Especially for the does and fawns.. Deer numbers remain low across much of ND despite a series of mild winters. Take the CRP out, and the does and fawns that are hiding in shelterbelts and small cover are easily hunted by coyotes. Reduced CRP is causing more coyotes and less deer.

I have a article dated November 29, 2016 where Stephanie Tucker, a furbearer biologist for the NDG&F here in Bismarck says surveys to track coyotes numbers are really crude and monitor trends rather than population estimates. The Trend

show coyote numbers holding steady or slightly increasing in the past decade, despite the ongoing loss of CRP acreage, Tucker said. She also said that deer studies have shown a correlation between habitat loss and fawn predation. In Central and western North Dakota where there's more perennial habitat, coyotes don't have near the impact on deer we would see where good deer habitat is really lacking. We haven't had a bad winter in 3 or 4 years, and personally I attribute the deer declining to coyote predation. Fawn recruitment is way down.

Tests have been done to confirm if coyotes affect whitetail deer population. A study was done by the University of Georgia. The study was performed on 2,000 acres where 22 coyotes were removed during fawning season. It resulted in a doubled fawn population.

Later, in another section of 11,000 acres, 23 coyotes were trapped, and on another 7000 acres no trapping was done. The results were staggering. In the trapped area, 2 out of every 3 does had fawns opposed to the untrapped area where only 1 out of every 28 does had fawns.

The US Forest Service in South Carolina conducted one of the largest studies concerning the affects of coyotes on whitetail deer. 60 fawns were collared and observed. Within the first 6 weeks, 73% of the fawns died; 80% of them by coyotes. They did a second study on the adjoining land with the fawns having no collars and using only trail cameras to prove that the collars did not slow the fawns down. The mortality rate was the same.

In Alabama, a 2 year study on 2000 acres convinced researchers that coyotes were a limited factor in the reduced numbers of fawns. First , laboratory analysis of coyote scat and stomach contents showed fawns made up 27.3 % of the coyotes diet during that regions peak fawning months. Second, the researchers documented a staggering jump of fawn abundance after removing 22 coyotes in that regions peak breeding months. Data from experienced hunter observations and a network of web equipped cameras showed a staggering 190% increase of fawn to doe ratios.

Coyotes pair up in late January, and breed in February, with average litters of 6 pups. They can breed at 22 months of age and they have life span of roughly 8 years and they reproduce exponentially. They are most active at night and have feeding territories up to 20 square miles. They can run 35-40 miles per hour.

Knowing that information, we can best reduce the number of coyotes by hunting them in the winter months, with a motorized vehicle after daylight hours.

And

What would HB 1377 do--

This would give us the ability to hunt coyotes with the use of motorized vehicles and spotlights.

In the rural area where we live, there are many township roads not maintained in the winter. It's common to have a 5-10 mile square area that is not accessible in winter without motorized vehicles.. So we can't get to the coyotes that are off our premises. As the coyotes are removed from one area, it is well documented that more coyotes move into any void that is created. As coyotes are most active after daylight hours, using spotlights off premises is needed to be effective.

There is no fiscal note attached to this bill. When you look at the lost revenue from the deer licenses being in steady decline--cut in half from 2011, the state has lost \$1,000,000 per year.

Right now our century code says we may hunt coyotes on our premises with spotlights when they are attacking or destroying our poultry, livestock or other property. We need to expand that with this bill so we can use the tools we need to get the deer population back up.

So we know that coyotes can and do take down full size deer, the internet is full of u tube videos documenting it, but the real problem is the taking of fawns.

The deer population continues to decline, despite mild winters, with mainly because of the decrease of habitat which makes it easier for coyotes to hunt does and fawns.

So how can we fix this?

We have already cut down the hunting pressure with reducing licenses by 50% since 2011;

CRP probably isn't coming back anytime soon with our national debt over 19 trillion dollars, there will not be funding for it;

The only thing left is to remove coyotes. We could put a bounty on coyotes, but with our state's economy right now, there is no money for that.

Right now we already have—

- an open season on coyotes-- year round;
- we have a snaring season,
- Trapping of coyotes is allowed.
- We are allowed to hunt coyotes on our own premises with spotlights,
- The game and fish already has a service to pair up hunters with landowners who want help with coyote reduction;

All this is being done already and Its all good, but it's still not enough.

Our deer population numbers are critical.

We still have too many coyotes.

Some may also have arguments or studies that the use of motorized vehicles is detrimental to populations of deer herds, and that might be the case in other states, and studies can be set up to favor the desired outcome. For instance you could hypothetically test this on a deer herd where you disturb them every day in some valley with motorized vehicles, stimulating hunting, then of course you would get distressed animals. However here on the prairie, coyotes aren't tracking right next to the deer all the time. And once you kill the coyote there are not a problem anymore. The intent is to kill coyotes, not harass deer.

Some may argue this could increase poaching. I'm saying that we are in a crisis as far as deer population goes. And 1 coyote pair can take ^{significant numbers of} ~~up to 20~~ fawn in a year. Even at the extreme, it is unlikely that a poacher would take that many deer. And that's only 1 mating pair. Which predator are we concentrating on? Which is the greater threat?

That's why there is a sunset clause on this bill effective until July 2021. So in reality, it will only be in effect for 3 winters. By that time, we will be seeing the results of lower predator pressure on our deer herds and we can evaluate.

I would ask this committee to give this bill a Do Pass and lets get on our way to increase the deer population here in ND.

Sincerely,

Paul Henderson

Calvin, ND

A 3
Beard
2-2-17
HB1377

2-02-17

Marty Beard in favor of HB 1377

1. Land owners right to allow predator control on their land
 - a. hunters can still not trespass
 - B. arrest law breakers aka poachers/trespassors
 2. Govt. aka Wildlife services uses same methods
 - a. Most are call complaints when fur is valueless hunters would hunt earlier when fur has value
 - B. planes or snowmobiles cause same effects the end result is a dead coyote
 - C. One method uses tax payers dollars and Game and Fish dollars
 3. Montana and South Dakota have similar laws with no problems
 4. expensive infrared and night vision limit young hunters with less money
- Wow



#4
HB 1377
2-2-17
Tucker

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1377

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Stephanie Tucker, Game Management Section Leader and Furbearer Biologist
February 2, 2017

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Stephanie Tucker and I'm the Game Management Section Leader and Furbearer Biologist of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I am testifying today on HB 1377.

Coyotes are a native species valued by recreational hunters and trappers. In a typical year, over 70,000 people are licensed to hunt or trap coyotes in this state. Cumulatively, these fur harvesters spend over 200,000 recreational days hunting and over 60,000 days trapping or snaring coyotes each year.

Part of what the Department teaches these license holders in our Hunter Education and Fur Harvester Education classes relates specifically to hunter ethics and fair chase. Allowing people to pursue, shoot, kill, or take coyotes by virtually any means, is in direct conflict with what we teach to potential hunters and trappers about unethical behavior and animal welfare.

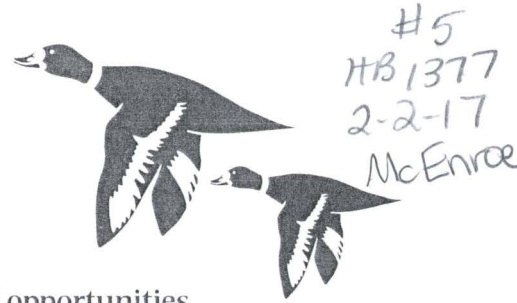
Additionally, this legislation has the potential to create enforcement challenges for the Department. Having an "anything goes" law associated with a year-round open season would give poachers a legal excuse to be in the field when their intentions are not to harvest coyotes. In severe winters, pursuit of coyotes using vehicles would also harass and stress other wildlife because many species are using the same limited winter habitat.

Finally, it is our professional opinion that implementing such legislation will not reduce the state's overall coyote population, nor will it increase deer and pheasant numbers, or reduce depredation problems with livestock. For those producers experiencing livestock harassment or loss due to coyotes, free, professional assistance is already provided by USDA-Wildlife Services. Or, for those producers who wish to handle problem coyotes themselves, NDCC 20.1-07-04 already provides flexibility for landowners or their agents who wish to use removal methods that are not allowed during normal hunting or trapping seasons.

For these reasons Chairman Porter, the Department respectfully requests a DO NOT PASS on HB 1377.

North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Ensuring abundant wildlife, wildlife habitat, and access to wildlife recreational opportunities



**TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL McENROE
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1377
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am Mike McEnroe and I am representing the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. The Federation has 1,400 members in eighteen affiliated clubs and organizations across the State of North Dakota. The Federation is the largest sportsmen's club in the State.

The North Dakota Wildlife Federation strongly opposes HB 1377. We specifically oppose the provision to allow the use of a mechanized vehicle to pursue, shoot, kill, take, or attempt to take a coyote. This opens the law to allow taking or killing coyotes by running them over with a snowmobile. This currently illegal activity has occurred in the past. We currently allow coyotes to be taken by hunter and trappers, by shooting, snaring and trapping. Landowners can receive coyote management assistance from the USDA Wildlife Services program and their personnel can use shooting, trapping, aerial gunning, and poison to remove problem coyotes. Loosening the regulations to allow slob hunters or killers to run coyotes down or over with a snowmobile is not in the best interests of anyone.



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In fact, this could be seen as anti-hunting legislation. The ethical black eye that North Dakota and our ethical hunters, trappers, and landowners will receive if HB 13377 is passed, will be used by anti-hunting and anti-sportsmens groups to oppose and curtail legitimate coyote and predator hunting and trapping and wildlife management activities.

The Federation strongly recommends a Do Not Pass on HB 1377.

Thank you. I would stand for any questions the Committee may have.

#6
HB 1377
2-2-17
Mastrangelo

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Phil Mastrangelo, I reside within District 33. I'm opposed to HB 1377 for these reasons:

- I'm concerned that if this bill is passed it will make the work of conservation officers (game wardens) much more difficult when they have to investigate suspected spotlighting infractions. With this bill in place people who are out after dark with a spotlight with the intent of illegally killing deer or perhaps someone's livestock would essentially be given a "get of jail free" card by simply telling law enforcement that "they are hunting coyotes."
- Also, the words "mechanized vehicle" in the bill may be intended to reference vehicles such as snowmobiles or ATVs. However, the broad definition of "mechanized" could be interpreted to include all types of motorized vehicles including aircraft and drones. The Airborne Hunting Act, which is a federal regulation, prohibits the use of aircraft for hunting or harassing wildlife unless those actions are approved through a permit issued by the state. If this bill passes I'm afraid that it could create costly and time consuming legal ambiguities for our game wardens when they have to investigate suspected illegal activity involving the use of aircraft or drones.
- As a wildlife biologist, I understand the economic and ecological importance of coyotes. I also understand the importance of deer to North Dakotans. Our statewide deer numbers are lower than what the public is accustomed to. The current winter conditions are impacting the physical condition of our deer. In times like these deer need to be allowed to feed and to conserve energy in order to survive. This bill, while it may have good intentions of helping our deer by reducing coyote numbers, has the potential to actually do more harm than good to the deer population. The last thing physically stressed deer need is to be disturbed by people who are chasing coyotes with some type of "mechanized vehicles." A coyote that is found out in the open will run to cover to escape being chased. That same cover may also provide a safe haven for deer that are trying to conserve their energy. If a coyote is run out of that cover by someone on a vehicle the deer will run out also. Again, if passed this bill it has the potential to do more harm than good.
- Chasing coyotes with vehicles really creates a poor image to many members of the public. North Dakotans have a strong hunting heritage; let's not tarnish that heritage by passing a bill that makes hunters look unethical and uncaring.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a "Do Not Pass" decision on HB 1377.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and thank you for your service to your respective Districts and to North Dakota.


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#17
HB 1377
Jerke
2-2-17

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1377
Presented to the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee
February 2, 2017
TJ Jerke, North Dakota State Director
The Humane Society of the United States

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee, on behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in North Dakota, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony **in opposition to HB 1377** which would permit mechanized vehicles and spotlighting to kill coyotes, running afoul of hunting ethics. While this bill would result in cruel slaughter, it will not reduce coyote numbers, restore deer herds nor protect cattle or sheep.

North Dakotans embrace "fair chase" hunting. According to North Dakota's hunter education manuals, in addition to obeying the law, the responsible hunter embraces and follows a personal code of ethics, which helps one to distinguish between what is right from wrong, and how one acts in certain situations.

- Being an ethical, responsible hunter means right conduct, even when no one else is watching
- A person with good hunting ethics will not do anything in the field he or she knows or feels is wrong, even if it is legal

The 2010 manual further describes fair chase as, "balancing the skills and equipment of the hunter with the abilities of the animal to escape. *Responsible hunters do not take unfair advantage of game animals, even if it is legal.*"

Jim Posewitz, founder of Orion: The Hunter's Institute and author of Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting, writes: "*Fundamental to ethical hunting is the idea of fair chase. This concept addresses the balance between the hunter and the hunted. It is a balance that allows hunters to occasionally succeed while animals generally avoid being taken. . . . If there is a doubt, advantage must be given to the animal being hunted.*"ⁱ

The ethical, responsible hunter waits carefully to fully identify his prey before he pulls the trigger. Mistaken species identity is, according to courts, the hunter's responsibility. Permitting mechanized vehicles and spotlighting reduces a hunter's ability to carefully identify his quarry, gives the hunter an unfair advantage over the hunted, and will increase both poaching and unintentional killing of protected species—causing more hunters to run afoul of state and federal laws.

House Bill 1377 would allow mechanized vehicles to hunt and kill coyotes. Using mechanized vehicles is not "fair chase" hunting, and does not "balance" the skills and equipment of the hunter with the abilities of the animal. Posewitz states that: "The mechanized pursuit of wildlife is high on the list of violating fair-chase principles." That is because animals' evolution "cannot keep pace with these inventions." Posewitz adds, "If we are to pursue animals fairly, the ethical choice is clear—we pursue them on foot. *The ethical hunter never chases or harasses wildlife with a machine.*"

House Bill 1377 would also permit the use of spotlights, or artificial light of any size or battery capacity to pursue, shoot, kill, take, or attempt to take a coyote. Using these kinds of advantages violates fair chase hunting, which can erode the public's tolerance for hunting. Hunting at night also may increase the risk of misidentifying species and is a public safety risk.

Enhanced persecution of coyotes using the methods in House Bill 1377 is not necessary. Coyotes prey primarily on rodents and rabbits.ⁱⁱ Studies show they balance their ecosystems, and have trophic cascade effects such as indirectly protecting ground-nesting birds from smaller carnivores, and increasing the biological diversity of both plant and animal communities.ⁱⁱⁱ

Yet, persecution of coyotes disrupts their social structure which, ironically, encourages more breeding and migration, and in the end, results in more coyotes.^{iv} The evidence is clear: over 100 years of coyote exploitation has not worked. In fact, since 1850 when mass coyote killing started, coyotes' range has tripled in the U.S.^v and some coyotes have become more wary.^{vi} Furthermore, killing coyotes to restore ungulate herds such as elk and deer does not work, according to a whole host of studies.^{vii} Deer and other ungulates are more limited by a lack of nutrition than by their predators.

According to USDA data, livestock losses to native carnivores are miniscule. In 2010, the U.S cattle and sheep inventories numbered 99.6 million animals. Of that total, 467,100 cattle and sheep were lost to all predators put together (including coyotes, domestic dogs, wolves, cougars, bobcats, vultures and bears), or 0.5% of the inventory.^{viii} In fact, government data show that livestock growers lose most of their herds to respiratory problems, digestive problems, birthing problems, weather, and disease.^{ix} Livestock growers can use many non-lethal solutions to further reduce losses including using calving and lambing sheds, barriers such as electric fences and most important, removing dead livestock carcasses to prevent habituation.^x

We respectfully request that you vote "No" on House Bill 1377. Thank you.

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

PREVENTING Coyote Conflicts

How to Keep Coyotes out of Your Yard and Keep Your Pets Safe

Coyotes generally avoid humans, even when their home range encompasses largely urban or suburban habitat. However, the presence of a free buffet in the form of pet food, compost, or trash can lure coyotes into yards and create the impression that these places are bountiful feeding areas. Without the lure of food or other attractants, their visits will be brief and rare. But a coyote who finds food in one yard may learn to search for food in others.

WHAT ATTRACTS COYOTES TO URBAN AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS?

Food

Deliberately feeding coyotes is a mistake. You may enjoy hand-feeding animals, but this is a surefire way to get them accustomed to people, and it will ultimately lead to their demise.

Here are some general rules:

- ▶ Avoid feeding pets outside. If you must, feed them only once per day and remove the food bowl as soon as your pet has finished her meal.
- ▶ If you compost, use enclosed bins and never compost meat or fish scraps.
- ▶ Clean up spilled bird seed around feeders.
- ▶ Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- ▶ Keep trash in high-quality containers with tight-fitting lids and place the cans curbside the morning of collection (instead of the night before).



Shelter

Coyotes are secretive animals, and studies have shown they can live for a long time in close proximity to dense human settlements without ever being noticed. These coyotes are abiding by the rules we set for minimal conflicts and should be left alone.

In the spring, when coyotes give birth and begin to raise litters, they

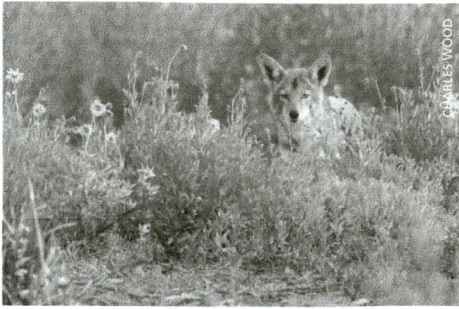


HOW TO PROTECT DOGS

Dogs (especially small dogs) are also vulnerable to coyote confrontations. These incidents generally involve coyotes who are either accustomed (habituated) to people (usually due to wildlife feeding), or coyotes who are protecting their territory, their mate (during breeding season, January–March), or their pups (during pup season, April–August).

Dogs should not be left outside unattended and should always be kept on a leash in public areas. Never let your dog interact or play with a coyote. Keep pet food and water indoors to avoid attracting coyotes to your yard.

Although attacks on larger dogs are rarer, coyotes sometimes go after a large dog when they feel that their territory is threatened. This generally occurs during coyote breeding season, which takes place from January through March. During this



concentrate their activities around dens or burrows in which the young are sheltered. At these times, they may become defensive and territorial and challenge any other coyote or dog that comes close to the pups. People

walking their dogs in parks and wooded areas may run into these situations and be followed or confronted by a parent coyote. Fights rarely occur, most often when dogs are off leash. It's important to recognize such incidents for what they are—a defense of space, not a random attack. If you encounter a coyote when walking your pet, do NOT run away. Instead, haze the coyote with the techniques described in our Coyote Hazing Guidelines fact sheet.

Free-roaming pets

Free-roaming pets, especially cats (and sometimes small dogs), may attract coyotes into neighborhoods. The best way to minimize risk to pets is never to leave them outside unattended. For cats, this means either always keeping them indoors at all times or letting them outside only under your supervision wearing a harness and leash or in a secure enclosure (such as a catio). Always walk dogs on a leash, and attend to them when they're outside unless you have a coyote-proof fence (see below).

Feral cat colonies

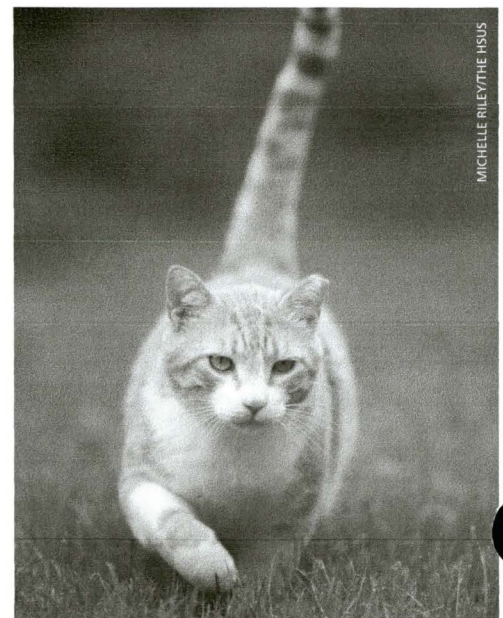
People who feed feral cats are often concerned that coyotes might prey on the cats. These concerns are well-founded, as coyotes are attracted to both the outdoor pet food and the cats themselves as prey. Here are some general suggestions for keeping such cats safer:

- ▶ Feed cats only once per day and at a set time. Pick up any leftovers immediately.
- ▶ Elevate feeding stations beyond coyotes'—but not the cats'—reach.
- ▶ Give barn and feral cats escape routes (in the form of "cat posts") in places where trees and other climbing opportunities are scarce. These can be wooden posts (four inches by four inches or corner posts) that stand out of the ground at least ten to twelve feet and can be climbed by cats but not by coyotes.
- ▶ Discourage/harass coyotes seen on the property. Go after them aggressively, using the techniques described in our Coyote Hazing Guidelines. Making them feel uncomfortable encourages them to stay out of the area.

For more information and tips, visit our website at humanesociety.org/coyotes.

time, it is especially important not to leave dogs outside unattended and to keep them on leashes in public areas.

Don't leave dogs of any size alone in a fenced yard unless the fence is "coyote-proof." Coyote-proof fences are either at least eight feet tall and made of a material that coyotes cannot climb or at least six feet tall with a protective device on top, such as a "coyote roller," (coyoteroller.com) that rolls off any coyotes that try to scramble over the fence. Do-it-yourself alternatives include adding PVC piping or chicken wire to the top of your fence to prevent coyotes from getting the foothold they need to make it over. To prevent coyotes from digging under a fence, make sure the fence extends at least 12 inches underground or includes an L-shaped mesh apron that extends outward at least 18 inches and is secured with landscaping staples.





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SOLUTIONS for Coyote Conflicts

Why Killing Doesn't Solve Conflicts with Coyotes

As coyotes have expanded their range across North America, encounters with people have increased. These encounters alarm people who fear for the safety of their pets and children. To allay this fear, communities might feel that they need to pay for wide-scale programs to remove coyotes from the population. However, these killing programs are inhumane—and they don't work. Better solutions exist.

WHY DON'T COYOTE KILLING PROGRAMS WORK?

They're ineffective.

- ▶ It's extremely difficult to ensure that the problem-causing coyote(s) will be the one(s) located and killed.
- ▶ New coyotes will quickly replace coyotes removed from an area. Coyote pairs hold territories, which leave single coyotes ("floaters") constantly looking for new places to call homeⁱ.
- ▶ New coyotes can quickly become "nuisance" coyotes if attractants (e.g. pet food and garbage) aren't removed from a neighborhood.

They won't reduce coyote populations.

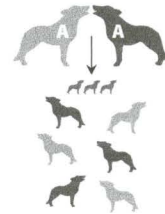
- ▶ Research suggests that when coyote populations are controlled aggressively, the remaining coyotes often experience a reproductive boom by breeding at earlier ages, having larger litters, and experiencing a higher survival rate among the youngⁱⁱ. Therefore, coyote populations bounce back quickly, even when up to 70% of their numbers are removedⁱⁱⁱ.
- ▶ It's nearly impossible to completely eradicate coyotes from an area. Despite bounties and large-scale efforts to kill coyotes over the last 100 years, coyotes have in fact expanded their range throughout the U.S. and Canada tremendously. One study even found that killing 75% of a coyote population every year for 50 years would still not exterminate the population^{iv}.

Removal is costly.

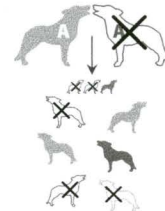
- ▶ Coyotes are very intelligent animals and are difficult to catch. Even a very skilled trapper or sharpshooter—who works for a hefty price—needs many hours to catch a targeted coyote.

Why **KILLING** Doesn't Work

Shoot or poison coyotes and you will have just as many again within a year or two. Kill one or both members of the alpha pair (A)—the only one that normally reproduces—and other pairs will form and reproduce. At the same time, lone coyotes will move in to mate, young coyotes will start having offspring sooner, and litter sizes will grow.

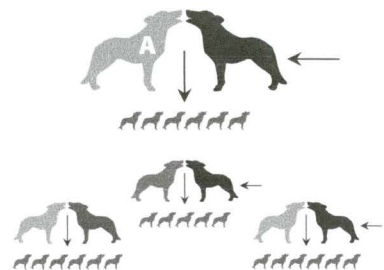


STABLE PACK
Only the alpha pair reproduces, and its litters are small. Pack members are less likely to eat sheep.



KILLING
Cuts numbers by half, but only temporarily.

PACK DISRUPTED BY LETHAL CONTROL
Survivors, joined by males from outside, start reproducing. Litter sizes increase. The need to feed many pups can lead adults to prey on sheep.



PACK FEMALE PACK MALE OUTSIDER MALE PUP YEARLING

Trapping is inhumane.

- ▶ The most common devices used to capture coyotes are leghold traps and neck snares. Both can cause severe injuries, pain, and suffering^v.
- ▶ Pets become unintended victims of traps set for coyotes. An informal search of media reports suggests thousands of unintended incidents have occurred, causing heartbreak for affected families.
- ▶ Non-target wildlife is also caught, and many sustain injuries so severe that they die or must be killed.



WHAT ABOUT RELOCATION?

Although it may seem like a more humane alternative, in most cases relocating a coyote is a death sentence for that animal^{vi}. Coyotes are very territorial and occupy large home ranges, in some cases up to 40 square miles. After being relocated, they will do just about anything to get back home and will undoubtedly face many challenges along the way. Unfamiliar with their new terrain, they are often killed while crossing roads and highways. They may also be injured or killed during territorial disputes with coyotes who are already established in the area where they're released. In addition, state wildlife laws usually prohibit the relocation of coyotes, since they are a rabies-vector species (although rabies is rare in coyotes).

The bottom line is that killing is not a solution for managing conflicts between people and coyotes.

Instead, a two-part program that combines education and hazing is emerging as the most humane way to resolve conflicts with coyotes^{vii}. Education involves teaching residents of your community how to remove food attractants that lure coyotes into communities and how to properly protect pets. Hazing changes the behavior of problem coyotes by teaching them to avoid people and pets.



For more information and tips, visit our website at humanesociety.org/coyotes.



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**Grand Forks
Herald**

Coyotes are 'here to stay' in North Dakota

By Brad Dokken on Nov 29, 2016 at 11:05 a.m.



1 / 4



Mike Liane has been trapping for more than 50 years, but the veteran outdoorsman says he didn't trap coyotes in North Dakota until the late 1980s.

"I haven't trapped coyotes all my life because we haven't had coyotes all my life," said Liane, who lives northwest of Devils Lake and is president of the North Dakota Fur Takers Association. "I used to take 200 fox a month trapping and catch maybe one or two coyotes. They were almost like a trophy animal."

That all changed with the advent of the Conservation Reserve Program in the late 1980s, Liane said. CRP simulated the native prairie that coyotes find to their liking, and populations exploded. At the same time, fox, which generally do better in farmland areas, plummeted in abundance.

"It's been a phenomenon that came with CRP," Liane said. "Coyotes and fox don't get along any more than wolves and coyotes. They're very territorial and almost wiped the fox out.

"So, you either became a coyote trapper or you didn't trap."

These days, Liane says he'll kill about 150 coyotes a month, mainly by snaring, during the first couple of months of snaring season when the furs are at their prime.

North Dakota's snaring season begins in late November and continues through mid-March.

"I do more snaring than anything—I don't do much trapping anymore," Liane said. "Truly, the best fur on coyotes is from about Thanksgiving week, which is when snare season opens, until the first or possibly into the second week of January. In a good year without a lot of snow, I only (snare) about six or seven weeks."

Steady to higher

Stephanie Tucker, furbearer biologist for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in Bismarck, said surveys to track coyote numbers are "really crude" and monitor trends rather than population estimates. The trends show coyote numbers holding steady or slightly increasing in the past decade, despite the ongoing loss of CRP acreage, Tucker said.

"They're an opportunist and habitat generalist," she said. "They don't need CRP to get what they need to eat and survive. They can make do in just about any habitat."

The same can't be said for deer, which Liane says are feeling the impact of declines in CRP habitat that sheltered fawns from coyotes and other predators.

Deer numbers remain low across much of North Dakota despite a series of mild winters.

"Take CRP out, and does are hiding in shelterbelts and small cover easily hunted by coyotes," Liane said. "We haven't had a bad winter in three or four years, and personally, I attribute the deer decline to coyote predation. Fawn recruitment is way down."

Tucker said the Game and Fish Department hasn't conducted extensive research on coyotes, but deer studies have shown the correlation between habitat loss and fawn predation.

"It's more efficient to hunt tree rows and field edges—it's easier to find prey," Tucker said. "In central and western North Dakota where there's more perennial habitat, coyotes don't have near the impact on deer we would see where good deer habitat is really lacking."

Smart critter

Liane says the popularity of coyote calling and hunting doesn't have a significant impact on the population because success rates are low. Too many hunters watch outdoors TV shows and then go afield without knowing what they're doing, he says.

"Coyotes are tougher to call than they ever have been, and part of it is the rookie callers out there educating so many," Liane said. "It's absolutely the smartest animal you'll ever hunt in your life."

Liane, who also is a taxidermist, said he once had two callers stop by with a pair of coyotes they wanted him to process and tan.

"They said they had called in about 50 coyotes in the last four or five weeks, and I said, 'That's pretty good, how many did you kill?'" Liane said.

Their answer: Just those two.

"Those 48 other coyotes, they didn't get dumber based on the experience, so that's a very common tale," Liane said. "I'm not knocking, the recreational aspect of calling, but there are a lot of things to consider in doing it right, and if you do it wrong, that animal educated is difficult to take even for the experienced trapper or snarer."

Liane says the increase in cattails in his area also benefits coyotes. Based on what he's seen in the field, Liane says coyote numbers might be down from five years ago, but any decrease is slight, at best.

"If they're down more than 10 or 20 percent, I'd be surprised," he said; further population reductions won't come easily.

"Only a small handful like me are capable of taking 150 coyotes a month out here snaring," Liane said. "I'm kind of the deer hunter's best friend out here. I've got ranchers begging me to come and snare, and I can't get to all of them. I have some deer hunters that beg me to come and take the coyotes. Taking a coyote off the landscape saves a number of deer."

Tucker said the Game and Fish Department encourages livestock producers with depredation problems to contact U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, which has trained trappers and shooters across the state. Game and Fish and the state Agriculture Department the past four years also have offered a "coyote catalog" to pair hunters with landowners interested in fewer coyotes, Tucker said.

"People who participate really like it, so we'll continue to try to make that another option" for controlling coyotes, she said.

Larger trend

Tucker said the increase in North Dakota's coyote population follows a trend of natural expansion into the eastern U.S. John Erb, a furbearer biologist for the Department of Natural Resources in Grand Rapids, Minn., said similar upticks have occurred in Minnesota.

Minnesota's surveys also track trends rather than population estimates.

"Overall, in the longer term, coyotes have increased in the farmland and transition areas but have remained relatively stable in the forest," Erb said.

He said timber wolves tend to limit coyotes in forested areas.

"Anecdotal info suggested coyotes have maybe increased a bit in the forest in recent years, likely a result of a somewhat reduced wolf population," Erb said. "But even if that's accurate, I wouldn't expect it to last if deer—and hence wolves—continue to increase again."

Tucker said coyotes, besides being adaptable, are prolific and can increase reproductive rates and have bigger litters if population densities are low and food is adequate.

Even so, carrying capacity and disease remain as potential controls.

"I don't really expect the density to continue to go up," Tucker said. "There's only so much space, and so I feel like we've probably hit the ceiling. Numbers might come back down or start leveling off."

Added Liane: "They're here to stay."



Brad Dokken

Brad Dokken is editor of the Herald's Northland Outdoors section and also works as a copy editor and page designer. Dokken joined the Herald company in November 1985 as a copy editor for Agweek magazine and joined the Herald staff in 1989. He worked as a copy editor in the features and news departments before becoming outdoors editor in 1998. He also writes a blog called Compass Points. A Roseau, Minn., native, Dokken is a graduate of Bemidji State University.

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THE EFFECT OF COYOTES ON DEER POPULATIONS

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THE EFFECT OF COYOTES ON DEER POPULATIONS

The Effect of coyotes on deer populations is an area of great interest and concern to land and wildlife researchers and managers. Due to the declining fur market over the past several decades, the coyotes range has expanded drastically. With litters up to 19 pups coyote numbers increase every year. Tagged coyotes have been known to travel over 400 miles and they now inhabit the lower 48 states and Alaska. During the booming fur industry, the southeast had no coyotes and a high deer density. Now in some high-density locations previously having 50+ deer per square mile, deer are rarely seen. The U.S. Government has to kill over 90,000 coyotes yearly because of stock predation.



Tests have been done to confirm if coyotes affect whitetail deer populations. A study was organized and researched in Northern Alabama by Dr. Karl Miller[1] of the University of Georgia and Cory Van-Gilder[2], graduate of the University of Georgia, along with Dr. Grant Woods[3], graduate of Missouri State University, University of Georgia, and Clemson University. The study was performed on 2,000 acres where 22 coyotes and 10 bobcats were removed during fawning season. Resulting in a doubled fawn population. Later, Miller went on to conduct a second study in Southwest Georgia on 2 sections of land. One section of 11,000 acres, 23 coyotes and 3 bobcats were trapped and on another 7,000 acres no trapping was done. The results were staggering. In the trapped area 2 out of every 3 does had fawns opposed to the un-trapped area where only 1 out of 28 does had fawns.

Dr. John C. Kilgo[4] at the U.S. Forest Service at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina conducted one of the largest studies concerning the affects of coyotes on whitetail deer. Sixty fawns were collared and observed. Within the first 6 weeks 73% (44) of the fawns died. Approximately 80% (35) were killed by coyotes, 13% (6) were killed by bobcat, and 7% (3) by unknown causes. Dr. John C. Kilgo conducted another study on the adjoining land with deer having no collars and using only trail cameras to prove that the collars didn't slow the fawns down. The mortality rate was the same. Dr. Kilgo's most recent studies disproves the theory that fawning cover will reduce the predation of fawns finding the same

results as land with less fawning cover. Dr. Kilgo and Christopher Shaw of the U.S. Forestry Service tested the theory of "predator swamping" where the buck-to-doe ratio was balanced, wherefore all the fawns would drop at the same time. They conducted a test on 2 tracts of land, on the first tract the deer had a high density and on the second tract a low deer density. Even though the land had roughly the same amount of coyotes the rate of predation was roughly the same.



In year 2005, Dr. Stephen Ditchkoff [5] of Auburn University and his students began collaring 50 fawns a year. When starting, they scarcely had a fawn killed by coyotes, but in 2008 34% were lost and in 2009 over half were lost. Mark Buxton [6], a wildlife manager with Southeastern Wildlife Habitat Services in Thomaston Alabama, says at the QDMA's annual convention in Louisville Kentucky "... food plots, timber stand improvements, and restoring native vegetation... can maximize their (the deer) potential. The coyote is the next big part of that equation." Buxton says "if coyotes are not a problem on your hunting property they will be in a few years." It has been said that fawns were at the wrong place at the wrong time. Buxton believes this is not the case. He trapped predators in 2009 during 3 months of spring and caught 20 coyotes and 15 bobcats from 1500 acres, beginning about a month before fawning begins. After 1 year, Buxton had

caught 49 coyotes and continued into the 2010 fawning season trapping 14 more. In total, 54% of the coyotes trapped were caught during fawning season (34 of 63). "That tells me when coyotes are targeting fawns" Buxton states "when fawns hit the ground its game on for coyotes". Ditchkoff agrees, saying, "coyotes might have learned to identify doe behaviors that indicate fawns are nearby. That's not unheard of. In Alaska, they've documented that when a cow moose acts in a way that indicates a calf is nearby, brown bears start a systematic search to find the calf. They just hammer moose calves."



During the late 1980's coyotes advanced into South Carolina and by year 2006 the deer population declined by 36%. Is this merely by chance? An in-depth study was done on Michigan's Upper Peninsula indicating coyotes kill more grown deer and fawns than wolves, bears, or bobcat. For 3 consecutive years coyotes caught and killed more adult deer leaving their competition in the dust. Coyotes killed 7 deer, whereas wolves killed 3 and bears and bobcat trailing behind with 1 each. Coyotes were also the apex killing predator fawns with 22. Bobcats killed 12 and bears and wolves tied at 4.





In yet another study, Sarah Saalfeld[7], a student of Auburn University, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Dithckoff, found coyotes impacted deer in an urban environment the same as in the wild, contradictory to the expectation that cars would be the highest cause of mortality. Coyotes killed 67% of the fawns in an urban environment just as in rural environments.



It appears coyotes negatively influence deer populations. The elimination of coyotes have been known to double the survival of fawns. The removal of predators, especially coyotes can significantly increase the deer population. Do your part to put these fawn slayers in check by trapping and hunting and to bring back a thriving deer herd, but be sure to check your states laws before you go out!

Hampton Harris

[1] Miller, Karl *The Coyote Factor – Taking a Bite Out of Deer*

<http://www.aonmag.com/article.php?id=2077&cid=189>

[2] Van-Gilder, Cory *The Coyote Factor – Taking a Bite Out of Deer*

<http://www.aonmag.com/article.php?id=2077&cid=189>

[3] Woods, Grant *The Coyote Factor – Taking a Bite Out of Deer*

<http://www.aonmag.com/article.php?id=2077&cid=189>

[4] Kilgo, John C. *The Coyote Factor – Taking a Bite Out of Deer*

<http://www.aonmag.com/article.php?id=2077&cid=189>

[5] Ditchkoff, Stephen *How Coyotes Affect Deer Herds*

<http://www.americanhunter.org/articles/how-coyotes-affect-deer-herds/>

[6] Buxton, Mark *How Coyotes Affect Deer Herds* <http://www.americanhunter.org/articles/how-coyotes-affect-deer-herds/>

[7] Saafeld, Sarah *The Coyote Factor – Taking a Bite Out of Deer*

<http://www.aonmag.com/article.php?id=2077&cid=189>

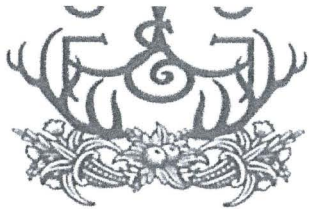
Mulligan, Don Study Shows Coyotes Impacting Deer

Populations [http://www.kpcnews.net/outdoors/index.php?](http://www.kpcnews.net/outdoors/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=665:study-shows)

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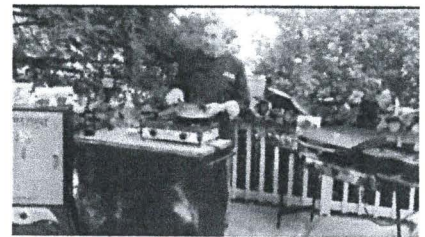
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in "Media & Events"



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2-2-17
HB 1377
Evans

From: trapperscott@srt.com
Subject: Legislature / HB-1377
Date: Feb 1, 2017, 11:16:00 PM
To: Anderson, Dick D. dickanderson@nd.gov, Porter, Todd K.
tkporter@nd.gov

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To: Representative, Dick Anderson / Representative, Todd Porter

First of all I am not an anti hunter nor belong to any organization that dislikes animal hunting. Far from it, I have trapped, snared, and shot coyotes for over fifty- five years. Twenty-five of which I was employed by USDA, Wildlife Services, in which our primary target was predation coyotes on livestock. I possibly have taken more coyotes than anyone in this room.

This brings me to HB-1377, the meaning of mechanized vehicle, would this be a high powered snowmobile running over a coyote in deep snow and or possibly an airplane flying around shooting coyotes where ever they saw one? The second part of the bill, lights of any size, imagine what excuse a deer shiner will give a Game Warden when confronted.

I believe HB-1377 would have a great impact on the number of coyotes available to the sportsman who wish to pursue the coyote while trapping and hunting.

All of God's Creatures deserve to be treated with respect, even the coyote. It's inhumane, cruel, and not "fair chase" to run an animal down with a snowmobile.

For these reasons, I would ask you to consider not supporting HB-1377.



Thank you

Scott Evens
Granville, ND.



North Dakota Fur Hunters And Trappers Association

#9
Tischaefer
2-2-17
HB 1377

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House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
House Bill 1377

January 31, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the families and members of the North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association, I ask that you and the members of this committee support a "do not pass" recommendation on House Bill 1377.

The North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association is a professional organization comprised of families and individuals from throughout the State of North Dakota. We are an organization devoted to educating the public on the consumptive use of our natural resources as a necessary and proper tool of wildlife management; executing an educational program relative to the regulated harvest of our natural resources; and promote the sensible, sound scientific practices and administrative procedures relating to the management of our furbearing species in North Dakota.

Our members have been surveyed in the past due to similar legislation. The results document opposition to the use of snowmobiles and other tracked vehicles to aid in killing coyotes.

I am asking that you and the members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee support a "do not pass" recommendation on House Bill 1377.

Respectfully,

Rick Tischaefer
President

Amended Version - Marked up -

lines

7-9

Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
an individual, over 18 years of age, may use
a ground mechanized vehicle, spotlight, or artificial
light of any size or battery capacity to pursue,
~~shoot, kill, take, or attempt to take~~ a cogote;
the individual is prohibited to shoot until the
mechanized vehicle is stopped.

Would read- Taking of Cogotes

Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
an individual, over 18 years of age, may use a
ground mechanized vehicle, spot light or artificial
light of any size to pursue a cogote; the
individual is prohibited to shoot until the mechanized
vehicle is stopped.

Section 2. Expiration Date. This Act is effective
through July 31, 2021, and after that date is
ineffective.