

February 25, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
Member Senator Cliff Bentz , <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bentz>  
Member Senator Shemia Fagan , <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/fagan>  
Member Senator Sara Gelser, <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/gelser>  
Member Senator Dennis Linthicum, <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/linthicum>  
Member Senator James Manning Jr., <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/Manning>

Subject: SB 723 - **No vote Urged**

Dear Senators,

I am urging a NO vote on SB 723 and the SB 723 'dash' 2 amendment.

I am a lifelong resident of Oregon. Our family owns a 300 acre farm and ranch. The coyote problem had become so bad that neighboring farmers, including the one leasing our tillable fields, began carrying rifles on the tractors and combines.

A few years ago I, along with a relative and a friend were aggressively hunting coyotes on our farm. As a result we had more deer and could see more fawns in the spring. The barn cats worked to keep the mice and other vermin down around the farm house and all of the out buildings. We could begin to see more and more covey's of quail beginning to return to the fence rows. I even saw a pair of pheasants along the fence line of the lower horse pastures. Pheasants, once in abundance, had disappeared almost overnight.

Then I had some health problems and I was unable to go out to the farm and varmint hunt. Within a couple of short years it became rare to see a covey of quail, haven't seen a pheasant in 3 years now, the barn cats have been decimated, and those aren't really barn cats, those are the cats that, for the most part stay on the back porch of my mother's farm house.

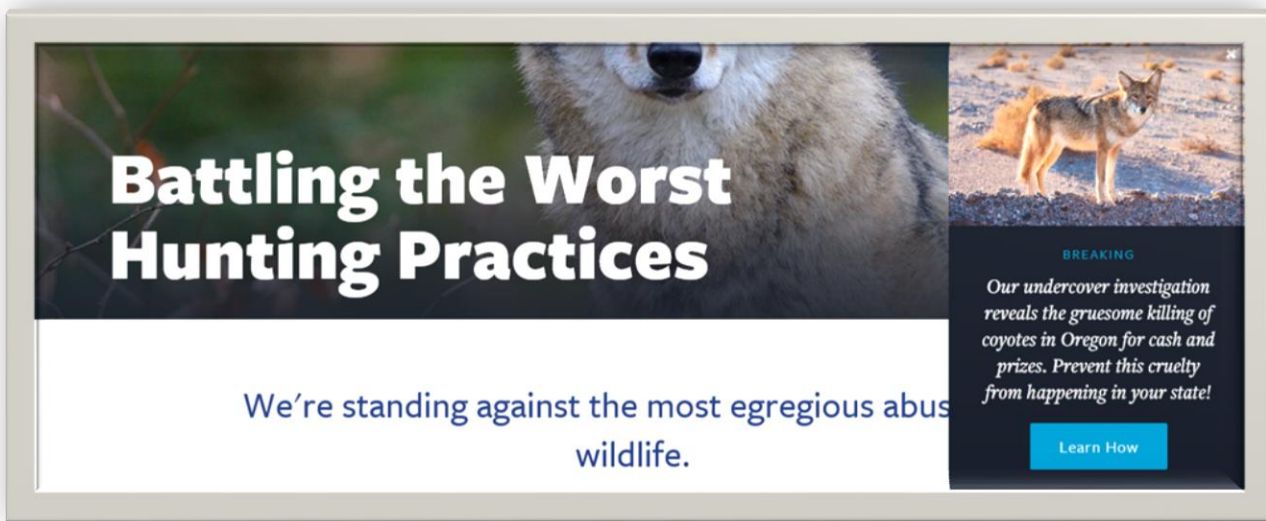
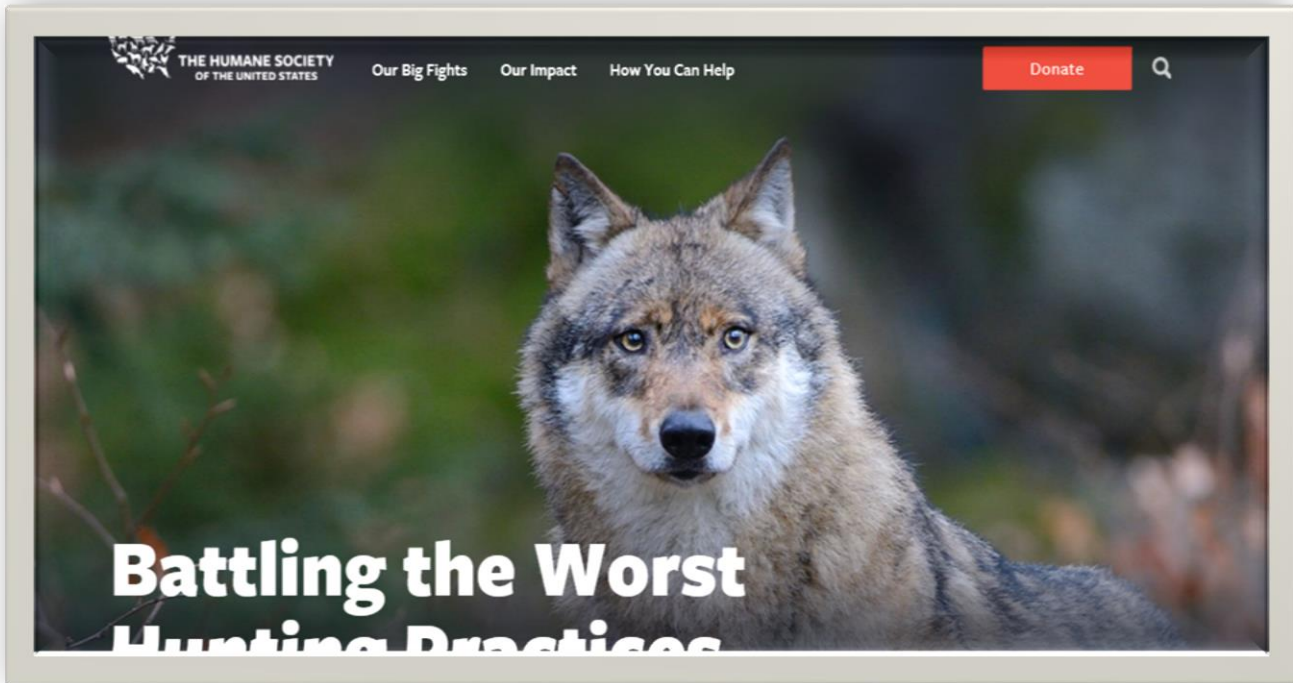
Now that I'm back to hunting coyotes on the farm, there has still not been any return of the other animal population I noticed the decrease in. Where I normally saw 7 to 10 deer almost nightly, I still only see 2 or 3. I had game camera's out for 2 months and got pictures of 2 deer. In past years when we were hunting coyotes regularly, I'd get pictures of 10 to 15 deer nightly. I haven't seen a covey of quail in a very long time. We'll see what this spring and the next year brings.

I've been in the horse barn when the coyote packs have been howling and carrying on less than a hundred yards away in the dark. We had them spooking the horses in the coral and we actually had a horse die when he was spooked by and or chased by coyotes and he ran into the side of the barn, breaking his neck. While we did not witness the attack, we found the horse laying up against the side of the barn and a broken neck. We found plenty of tracks that gave us a clear picture of what had happened.

Have you ever seen sheep with their bellies ripped open and intestines strung out 15 or 20 feet? I have. I have found 3 fawns ripped apart by coyotes. I've seen a number of coyotes chasing the sheep and taking them down in what appeared to be nothing more than adults teaching the pups to hunt. They certainly weren't killing for food. I've been waist deep in the creek trying to help get a number of the neighbor's sheep unstuck from the mud or floundering from water logged wool after they ran into or jumped into the creek to get away from the coyotes that were chasing them. Imagine this, a yew in full wool, water logged and stuck in the mud in the creek. You reach down and grab her head to try and keep her nose above water until they can get a rope sling on her to pull her out,

because you can't budge her. As you grab her head and pull it upward, a big bubble of blood surges up from an unseen wound below the water line. We saved the yew and when we got her out of the water we found wounds to her legs and a big patch of wool pulled off at the base of her neck. "Skinned Alive" is a term that comes to mind.

Now, along comes a Washington D.C. based outfit, a group who are trying to ban rodeo's, bull riding competitions and many other events. They send an 'undercover investigator' out to film an event that has plenty of video anyway. But I would submit that their primary goal here is money. They are using this coyote hunt as a fund raising, money making, donations "ask"



It was advertised, not hidden, it was a fund raiser, not unlike others that had been held and conducted by people and an organization that have more knowledge in their little fingers about ranching and farming than a lot of people who are complaining against this hunt or others. I don't think these people would know what an undercover investigation was if it jumped up and bit them.

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<https://www.hcn.org/issues/119/3792>

"Scientists studied more than 30 factors that might account for low survival rates," he said. "The only thing that correlates with low pronghorn survival is high coyote numbers."

<https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/More-antelope-fawns-surviving-1091958.php>

## “More antelope fawns surviving

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published 10:00 pm PDT, Tuesday, July 23, 2002

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- After years of decimation by coyotes, fawn survival rates on the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in south-central Oregon are steadily recovering. A healthy 53 antelope fawns per 100 does at the refuge survived this year. That's not as good as last year's record total of 66, but it is well above the number needed to maintain the refuge's pronghorn population.

"I'm very pleased," said Mike Nunn, project leader for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which is headquartered in Lakeview. "It's rewarding to see fawns out there. The public has an expectation to see antelope when they come to the refuge, and that includes fawns." Nunn said aerial surveys counted 965 does and 514 fawns. When combined with males, the number of pronghorns was set at 1,905."

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There is absolutely no reason for banning these coyote hunts and it does nothing more than provide a slippery slope to additional regulations. Coyotes are NOT game animals. They are predatory varmints that multiply like rabbits. There is no closed season on them and no limits on the number that can be taken."

This bill highlights one of the cultural divides between urban and rural Oregonians. While urban dwellers may think coyotes, cougars and wolves are cute, rural residents who see their lambs, sheep and cattle eaten alive don't share that view. You, the Oregon Legislature, have set up a department called, strangely enough, "Oregon Department of Fish and Wild Life". Stay out of their business and let the Sportsmen, ODFW and their biologists determine what is best in regards to this. ODFW would have put a season and a limit on the number of coyotes and banned the competitions if there was a problem that existed outside the city limits. Here is a link to these folks for anyone who may not be familiar with them or the hunting rules and regulations...<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/>  
This bill creates a new "victimless" crime for hunters engaged in lawful activity. There is NO public harm in holding a contest where participation is voluntary.

We all know that if the US Humane Society, PETA or any other groups like them had their way, there would be no hunting at all.

This bill creates a new "victimless" crime for hunters engaged in lawful activity. There is NO public harm in holding a contest where participation is voluntary.

Jim Mischel, Life Long Resident,  
Yamhill and Polk County

# **Young Farmers & Ranchers 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Coyote Hunting Tournament RULES**

**Event date: Nov. 30 – Dec. 2 in Burns, Oregon**

**Registration form & payment by check due: Nov. 15**

The OFB Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee is excited to offer the first-ever YF&R Coyote Hunting Tournament! Based upon the level of interest we're hearing, this is going to be a very successful event.

***IMPORTANT: Please read the tournament rules carefully.***

1. Entry will be limited to 150 People. One to three people per team. The entry fee is \$100 per person

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or only \$75 per person if the participant is a voting or supporting member of Oregon Farm Bureau. (If you're not yet a Farm Bureau member, visit [OregonFB.org/join](https://OregonFB.org/join) to join and help us help agriculture. Memberships will be verified before the event.)

Payback will be as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place team will receive 40% of the proceeds**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place team will receive 20%**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place team will receive is 10%**

The remaining 30% of the proceeds will be split between YF&R (25%) and Harney County Farm Bureau (5%).

2. Check in for rules and entries will be at 5 p.m. PST on Nov. 30, 2018.

3. Check in on the last day of the hunt (Dec. 2) will be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. PST for your coyotes to count for the hunt.

4. This hunt will be by weight only. There is no limit to the number of coyotes taken. If a TIE happens, the winner will be determined by which team checked in first.

# ***Young Farmers & Ranchers 1st Annual Coyote Hunting Tournament RULES***

## ***Young Farmers & Ranchers 1st Annual Coyote Hunting Tournament RULES continued***

5. **ALL state and federal laws apply in this hunt.**
6. Use of an aircraft of any type is forbidden. Use of aircraft by either a team or someone on behalf of a participant will result in immediate removal from the tournament and a ban from all future tournaments by Farm Bureau and/or YF&R.
7. Coyotes that have been run over with a motorized vehicle will not be counted.
8. No more than three people per team. One vehicle only. No splitting of teams or separating allowed.
9. Core temperatures will be taken from all coyotes at check-in. Coyotes that are in question will not count if the temperature and time do not match.
10. On the day of the tournament, bands will be distributed in bags at the rules meeting and will be placed in each coyote's mouth immediately upon retrieval. The band must have the number of the dog that was killed, the team number, date, time of day, and the shooter's name marked clearly. The bands provided are to be placed around the coyotes upper K9's and nose. Bands must be in the proper place for a dog to count. Coyotes cannot be placed in plastic bags, enclosed boxes, or stored inside a vehicle. After coyote is killed and properly banded, it must be transported in the back of pickup. All rules must be followed in order to maintain consistent core temps and fair judging. **NO EXEPTIONS.**
11. **All entrants** must be present and available to answer questions at the rules meeting and must be present at check in.
12. No pooling of coyotes between teams.
13. Check-in times are strongly enforced. It is the participants' responsibility to get with a tournament official to log your check-in time on the last day between 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. PST.
14. You must locate and call your own coyotes. **NO trapping and/or snaring.** You cannot have a second team or individual out scouting for you.
15. All coyotes that are checked in will be inspected and will become property of the tournament. This is to help cover the costs of the event.
16. The contest packet given to each team must be returned to the tournament officials before coyotes can be counted towards total weight.
17. Any teams caught not following the rules or cited by law enforcement for illegal hunting **WILL** be

disqualified.

For more information, contact Joe Witzel at [joewitzel@gmail.com](mailto:joewitzel@gmail.com) or 541.589.3839.

We look forward to a safe, fun, successful event! See you in Burns!

<https://oregonfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/coyoterules.pdf>

**Use caution in the following pages. Images can be graphic, especially for city / suburban / urban folks. The pictures depict damage to wildlife, domestic house pets and farm animals.**

**Graphic Images are on the following pages.  
Do not view them if you can't handle  
coyote damage.**

**Page intentionally blank.....Graphic images  
to follow**













5/30/09 9:43 PM

Cuddle back





/2010 9:24 PM





6/06/2009 2:26 AM













**©2015 Ross Swanson Photography**



**Coyote  
Attack**



