

Crystal Elston

IN SUPPORT OF SB723-2 – Prohibit Coyote Killing Contests in Oregon

As someone who has always been fond of nature and animals, I identify with the Native American's relationship with nature; that we are OF nature, not the masters of it. Living in the spirit of reverence and regard for the world around us, only taking what we need, and being in grace and gratitude for the life we do take, in order to sustain us.

The evolution of wildlife killing contests has become a gluttonous display of death; people gorging themselves out on as many kills as possible, stacking up corpses, posing for pictures, celebrating, laughing and ultimately hoping to cash in.

It is my personal belief that wildlife killing contests are a crime against nature in that they are a perverse display of apathy and disregard for essential canids, they ignore the tenants of the N. American model of ethical hunting, and these events continue whilst also ignoring the science that very clearly identifies that this approach is not effective. Ultimately, indiscriminate kills have the opposite and unintended consequence of increasing predator populations.

Reading about these events, seeing the related photos, rips my stomach apart. These are sentient creatures, socially active within their pack families, part of our eco-system, part of our world. In his article, A Death of Ethics, Todd Wilkinson quotes carnivore biologist John Laundre: "...it is amply known in the true conservation community, and by many children, that all native species have a part in ecosystems and that the predators, large and small, probably have the most important part" ...” They are the shepherds of ecosystems, keeping herbivores in their ecological place. Time after time, it has been demonstrated that the removal of predators leads to ecological destruction. And returning herbivores without their predators, an ecological crime, a crime, hunters repeatedly commit...”

I do not believe Wildlife Killing Contests have a place in our society. Rather there must be a sound science-based approach to wildlife management and stewardship, carried out in humane ways that reflect the best of our morality and good intentions.

I stand in solidarity with all those in support of SB723-2

Sincerely,

Crystal Elston

