

Coyote Killing Contests in Oregon: An Overview

Nothing in this legislation will affect existing state laws or regulations allowing the year-round hunting of coyotes, with unlimited bag limits, and the control of problem coyotes and all other predatory animals. As well, these killing contests are not supported by science-based wildlife management principles. Numerous scientific studies, including those cited in Oregon Small Farm News, underscore that science does not support indiscriminate, mass killing of coyotes as an effective means of mitigating conflicts with livestock or pets or increasing numbers of game species for hunters to pursue.

Oregon's wildlife is held in the public trust and managed for the enjoyment and benefit of all its citizens. These contests cross a line into a wanton disregard for a public resource and the public trust.

In addition, the [Governor of New Mexico](#) recently signed into law legislation to prohibit coyote killing contest, and the [Arizona Fish and Game Commission](#) has entered into rulemaking to do the same.

Multiple coyote killing contests have been documented in Oregon in recent years

1. In 2014 an emergency order stopped the annual **JMK Coyote Hunt**, which was scheduled to take place on public and private lands in Harney County. The lawsuit contended that the contest violated state gambling laws by offering "Calcutta" betting on its outcome. The Harney County Circuit Court judge rejected the emergency order and allowed the contest to go forward but prohibited betting on the event. Concerns were also raised because the contest was planned on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, so it was ultimately restricted to private property because the organizers hadn't applied for a special recreational permit (although contest organizer Duane Freilino [told Jefferson Public Radio](#) that the contest will begin and end on private property, but that he can't control where the hunters go).



Later in 2014, Freilino [settled the lawsuit](#) agreeing not to hold another coyote killing contest in the state and to pay more than \$5,000 in attorney fees.

2. The **Harney County Coyote Classic**, held in Burns and Crane, was last heard from in 2016. A [news story](#) on the January 2016 staging of the contest reported that it drew at least 150 to 160 participants, who would be killing coyotes on mostly private land in the area. The Harney County sheriff's office advised,

It is unclear if this contest has continued after 2016. The private Facebook group "Harney County Coyote Classic" has 830 members and as of August 21, 2018, had two posts in the past 30 days.

3. Up until 2016, the [Annual Lake County Coyote Calling Derby](#) in Lakeview offered prizes for those who killed the most coyotes.

It is also unclear if this contest has been held after 2016. The private Facebook group "Lake County coyote calling derby" has 131 members and as of August 21, 2018, had one new post in the past 30 days.



4. The [Young Farmers & Ranchers 1st Annual Coyote Hunting Tournament](#) was held in Burns from November 30 to December 2, 2018. The contest entry form begins, “The entry fee is \$100 per person — or only \$75 per person if the participant is a voting or supporting member of Oregon Farm Bureau.” The [rules](#) stipulate: 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. After coyote is killed and banded, it must be transported in the back of pickup.



Young Farmers & Ranchers 1st 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.

5. The sponsor and location of the Young Farmers & Ranchers 1st Annual Coyote Hunting Tournament listed above, also hosted a **Coyote Derby Series** with “48 hours straight hunts” on December 7-9 and 28-30, and January 11-13. The flyer for the contest announces a “Rifle Draw at each Derby,” and “Most Coyotes killed at end of series wins a Rifle for each participant on the winning team.”