

Dear Honorable House Members:

As a former rancher I ask you to vote against coyote hunting contests. My ranch was in Baker County and if it wasn't for the coyotes preying on ground squirrels I would have lost a good share of my crop. More than any other predatory animal the coyotes were--and still are godsend for saving alfalfa fields. the economic gains of saving crops far outweigh shooting coyotes for fun.

Nor in 28 years of ranching did I see "varmint" hunters harbor a lot of respect for private property and owners. Eastern Oregon is not the wild west and you would be doing land owners and ranchers a big favor getting rid of these contests.

Please ban this activity.

Thank you,

Whit Deschner