

Dear Chair Burdick and Committee Members:

I've lived in Wallowa County for nearly 25 years, have been involved in wildlife issues since 2007 and am a Co-Founder of Northeast Oregon Ecosystems.

I strongly urge you to support HB 4075A against coyote-killing contests and send this Bill to the Senate for a vote.

These gruesome killing contests are supposedly justified by a need to reduce coyote populations, but study after study has found that killing coyotes does not significantly reduce coyote numbers for more than a very short term. Disrupting packs by large-scale killing allows numerous non-breeding females to come into heat and thus produces more and larger litters which, abetted by rapid immigration by other coyotes, leads to a quick increase in population, followed by increased predation on larger prey sometimes including livestock. When coyotes are under lethal pressure, they rise to the occasion. To quote a researcher from an article in the Spring 2018 edition of *Oregon Small Farm News*, "Killing coyotes is kind of like mowing the lawn, it stimulates vigorous new growth."

The same article, *Using Coyotes to Protect Livestock*, points out that "If a pair of coyotes is not killing livestock, their dominance over the territory typically excludes sheep-killing predators and helps to prevent livestock losses." And of course coyotes serve farmers and ranchers by controlling rodents.

Lacking any genuine justification of reducing ungulate or livestock predation, these killing contests become simply an opportunity to kill for pleasure and a prize. Using every technological advantage by teams of killers, they are about as unsporting as possible. They express deep contempt for wildlife and an even deeper contempt for Oregonians with conservation values, and that means most Oregonians.

Please support HB 4075A.

Thank you,

Wally Sykes
Joseph, OR