

My family and I have always--year after year--been appalled by coyote-killing contests; not only because coyotes help keep rodents under control and inhabit an important niche in their ecosystem. But also because we find them beautiful, wonderful to observe in action, and unfairly despised. Most important, they are a legitimate part of nature and not ours to destroy. Killing them for "fun" is cruel, wasteful of life in general and encourages others (think, children) to feel that joy in the casual destruction of life is a good thing.

Oregon's wildlife is managed under the public trust doctrine, which holds that wildlife is managed for the benefit of all Oregonians; so we Oregonians feel disrespected by State support for wanton killing of wildlife as part of a blood contest. Science proves that randomly killing coyotes increases conflict with livestock, which makes killing contests counterproductive to hunters' state goals of protecting livestock. In fact science supports that coyotes are a highly adaptive species that respond to efforts to exterminate them by increasing their rates of reproduction.

So no reason--good or otherwise-- for continuing this barbaric practice.

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