

As a retired Fish and Wildlife Biologist, I know the importance of true Wildlife Conservation. Preservation does not provide for healthy populations of any species, and disrupts the natural balance of all species. When populations are left unchecked they can explode, and destroy the habitat they are residing in. There are several conservation methods of controlling populations, but the most efficient for large species is through permitted hunting regulations. Group hunting or competitions make for a great way of fund raising for important causes, and provide an important service to this community by lowering the population of species to a safe and manageable population.

Uncontrolled coyote populations can, and will cause financial hardship on individuals within Harney County. I for one have already experienced this financial, and time consuming hardship this past year when my pet Llama was attacked by coyotes. My Llama is not only a pet, but provides product for my spinning and weaving projects. Hand spun Llama wool, and handmade products can fetch a good price. Any loss of this extra funding can cause significant hardship which is the case for most ranchers in this community.

Veterinarian bills are not cheap, and continuous cleaning and working with an animal to assist in the healing of a large wound is not easy. As for my Llama, her entire butt was almost chewed off. The wound was large enough for the vet to think she would not survive the coyote attack. Four months later, the Llama's wound is about a 2 inch circle, and it is healing daily with constant care.

There are numerous coyotes in this area, and they have in the past attacked my calves, cats, dogs, angora goats, and myself. This was the first time they attacked my Llama, and I promote managing the coyote population through a variety of hunting practices: especially, through fund raising Derbys.