



## WCC Resolution Talking Points (please remember to personalize and be respectful):

### 'FUR HARVEST' COMMITTEE:

OPPOSE the [Nesting Bird Conservation Reward Program](#) - A reward to trappers to help reduce the 'overpopulation' of 'fur bearing' animals such as coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums & red fox

- **There is no scientific evidence (WI DNR or otherwise) that indicates there is an overpopulation of any of these predators.** Neither the petition nor the WI DNR has provided population estimates for any of the predator species addressed.
- **There is no scientific evidence that indiscriminately killing or trapping coyotes and other predators reduces their populations or increases populations of game animals like deer or waterfowl.** Various hunting organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation, among others, have acknowledged this and have explicitly come out against predator control for such purposes.
  - *“At large scales predators are generally NOT the primary driver of declines for most species. Indeed, habitat loss and degradation are typically the most significant factors.”* - Ryan Brady, WI DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation.
- **No credible scientific data or evidence supports that killing animals by trapping for recreation, commerce, or nuisance/damage control serves a legitimate wildlife management or conservation objective that cannot be accomplished with more humane alternatives.** Most traps—and specifically their settings (lures or attractants)—attract multiple non-target species. The unsupervised trapping characteristic of recreational, commercial, and control trapping therefore has the potential to indiscriminately catch, maim, and kill non-target animals including domestic dogs, imperiled species, and animals of the unintended sex, age class, or species.
- **Naturally-regulated predator populations are indispensable for resilient ecological processes and ecosystems, and have evolved to coexist with their prey species for millenia without any human intervention.**
- **Our responsibility to mitigate the prolonged pain and suffering of target animals and decrease the risk of anthropogenic deaths to non-target animals** (i.e., the claims of these nonhuman animals to life and well-being) trumps human claims to trapping for recreation, commerce, and nuisance/damage control.
- **The lack of scientific evidence for predator control serving any management purpose, the ecological value of predators, and increasing consideration for**

**predators and animals more generally, are the main reasons predator hunting and trapping are declining.** We would do well to rid ourselves of traditions that are harmful to our environment, cruel to animals, and can provide no evidence of serving any management purpose.

#### SUPPORT - [Give Coyotes Protections from Year-Round Open Season Hunting](#)

- **There is no scientific evidence suggesting that indiscriminately killing coyotes reduces their populations, increases populations of game animals like deer or waterfowl, or protects livestock.** Randomly killing coyotes disrupts their pack structure, which can increase their populations and increase conflicts between coyotes, humans, and domestic animals. Preventing conflicts by utilizing humane, non-lethal solutions is more effective.
- **Coyotes play an important ecological role in healthy ecosystems.** For example, coyotes reduce rabbit and rodent populations, scavenge animal carcasses and increase biodiversity. Indiscriminately killing coyotes is counterproductive to sound ecosystem protection.
- **The scientific evidence on the importance of coyotes for healthy ecosystems and the concerns over their indiscriminate killing suggests year-round, unmanaged coyote killing is disruptive to important ecological processes and should be, at the very least, mitigated through the establishment of closed seasons, as done with other predatory mammals (e.g. foxes, bobcats, raccoons).**
- Please see our [‘Why killing coyotes doesn’t work’ Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

#### OUTDOOR HERITAGE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

##### SUPPORT - [End all Killing Contests](#)

- **There is no scientific evidence that indiscriminately killing coyotes and other wildlife reduces their populations, increases populations of game animals like deer or waterfowl, or protects livestock.** Randomly killing coyotes disrupts their pack structure, which can increase their populations and increase conflicts between coyotes, humans, and domestic animals. Preventing conflicts by utilizing humane, non-lethal solutions is more effective.
- **Wildlife targeted by these contests play an important ecological role in healthy ecosystems.** For example, coyotes reduce rabbit and rodent populations, scavenge animal carcasses and increase biodiversity. These contests are counterproductive to sound management.
- **Eight states have prohibited wildlife killing contests.** As awareness of these barbaric events spreads, Americans are increasingly demanding an end to this bloodsport.

- **Killing contests damage the reputation of responsible hunters by violating fundamental hunting ethics.** Countless animals are injured or orphaned during killing contests. The events also put non-target species at risk.
- **Killing contests are a bloodsport.** Killing coyotes for thrills and prizes—with no respect for their intrinsic or ecological value—is senseless violence and waste.
- **This resolution is not a ban on hunting and does not impact other laws.** Individuals will still be allowed to hunt coyotes and other wildlife according to state laws.
- **Wisconsin's wildlife is managed in trust for all Wisconsinites.** Allowing individuals to wantonly kill wildlife as part of a cruel bloodsport is a grave violation of the state's obligations to hold wildlife as a public trust for all citizens.