

# PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G   C O E X I S T E N C E



## **Wisconsin Conservation Congress talking points (please remember to personalize and be respectful):**

- **The vision for the WCC was to be democratic and inclusive.** Instead, today, wild animals in our state live at the mercy of a small special interest group – recreational hunters and trappers – leaving little recourse for recognition of public values. The only way to rescue the WCC from its current state is through broad education and participation.
- **WCC Committees, especially those related to wildlife, have demonstrated a pattern of undemocratic, anti-science behavior, captured by narrow values and consumptive uses.** Last year, wildlife committees such as the 'Fur harvest' (the name says it all), Wolf and Bear committees rejected numerous resolutions, supported by the majority of the public, which would have increased restrictions in time, methods and activities for killing wildlife, such as banning coyote killing contests, banning trapping on public lands, banning captive hounding of mammals, banning the use of hounds to hunt wolves, reducing the hound training periods to hunt bears, and banning chocolate bait, among others. Wildlife committees rejected dozens of resolutions for protecting wildlife while advancing those to expand bobcat hunting, beaver trapping and using infrared lights to hunt predators.
- **The WCC leadership's recent undemocratic behavior betrays its role as a representative of all citizens.** WCC's District Leadership recently changed their Code of Procedure to remove a rule that allowed for resolutions that passed two consecutive years in a row in the same three counties to advance to the state level questionnaire regardless of committee support. That rule was the last resort for citizens to bypass biased committees, and the change was established to prevent important qualifying resolutions favorable to wildlife, supported by thousands of citizens, from being included in the survey, such as banning wildlife killing contests, hounding, chocolate bear bait, night hunting for wolves and coyotes, and even restricting WCC Advisory Committee Term Limits.
- **The WCC will not accept democratic, organizational change.** WCC District Leadership also decided to stop accepting any citizen resolutions related to changes in the body's process, procedure or organization. This is an explicit attempt to ban citizen's recent efforts to improve and democratize the WCC through resolutions allowing for virtual meetings, online elections, district map representation and committee term limits.
- **The only way to affect and change the WCC is through massive public participation and education about its shortcomings.** We need to educate a public that hardly knows of its existence or power. We need broad public participation within it: by joining the WCC as a volunteer delegate in

your county, participating in Spring Hearings and committee meetings, and voicing our outrage over its current state.

- **Wildlife is not the province of consumptive users, but the WCC enshrines their voice and desires.** All Wisconsinites deserve an equitable voice in wildlife policies. While a minority of Wisconsinites hunt and a minuscule proportion trap, over two-thirds engage in non-consumptive outdoor recreational activities heavily diminished by consumptive uses. The enshrining of fringe-hunting such as killing predators, hounding and killing contests is even more concerning given how it harms not only animals, but Wisconsin's ecosystems and their services to humans.