

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons)

Amend Sections 465 and 472
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Prohibition of Prizes for Take of Furbearers and Nongame Mammals

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: August 6, 2014
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: November 20, 2014
- III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 6, 2014
Location: San Diego, CA
 - (b) Adoption Hearing: Date: December 3, 2014
Location: Van Nuys, CA
- IV. Description of Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:

No changes have been made in the originally proposed regulatory language.
- V. Reasons for Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:

No changes have been made in the originally proposed regulatory language.
- VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support:

The summary of public comments received during the Notice period through November 20, 2014, and the Commission's responses are included as Attachment A.

Copies of the letters and emails received during the Notice period through November 20, 2014, are also included as Attachment B.

Attachment A

Summary of public comments received during the Notice period through November 20, 2014, and the Commission's proposed responses.

Attachment A. Summary of Primary Consideration Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Action and Reasons for Rejecting Those Considerations

#	Commenter Name Comment Format - Date	Comment	Response
1 2	Robert Smith, President, San Diego Wildlife Federation Oral Comment – 8/6/2014 Email Comment – 6/25/2014	a. Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals. b. Requests the proposal clarify that the rule will not impact game contests.	a. Support noted. b. Comment noted. The proposed regulation does not ban legal contests for game mammals, but merely clarifies that the code already prohibits the offering of inducements for non-game and furbearing mammals.
3	Noelle Cremers, CA Farm Bureau Oral Comment – 8/6/2014	Concerned about the unintended consequences regarding the ambiguity of a definition of inducements.	Comment noted. The proposed change uses the same language in the statute to avoid creating two different definitions.
4	Joseph Pyszczynski Oral Comment – 8/6/2014	Does not understand why the Commission is trying to end contest hunting.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
5	Camilla Fox, Exec. Dir., Project Coyote Oral and Written Comment – 8/6/2014	a. Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals. b. Does not support restricting the definition of prize or inducement to something of monetary value.	a. Support noted. b. Comment noted. Proposed change does not restrict definition.
6	Daniel Lutz Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.

7	Ronald Stephens Oral and written comment – 8/6/2014	Concerned that Department does not know how many coyotes are taken annually.	Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation changes. The Commission and Department are evaluating management options.
8	Jennifer Fearing Humane Society of United States Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.
9	Dennis McGilvery Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Concerned that making changes to coyote hunting may decrease deer herds.	Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation change.
10	Michael Cantor Oral comment – 8/6/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Law says no bag limits and allows for unlimited take; there is no scientific or biological evidence to support rule change. b. Contests provide incentives for much needed depredation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation change. The proposed change clarifies existing statute, the change is not one based on science or biology, but rather the use of the English language and intent of the legislature. b. The proposed regulation does not ban contests, but merely clarifies that the code already prohibits the offering of inducements for non-game and furbearing mammals.
11	Davidson Harley Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.
12	Zach Tomlinson Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Opposes statewide killing contests and supports a complete ban on contest hunting.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
13 14	Fauna Tomlinson Oral comment – 8/6/2014, Oral comment – 10/8/2004	Supports a ban on wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
15	Steven Childs Oral and written comment – 8/6/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame	Comment noted.

		mammals.	
16	Jeff Miller, Center for Biological Diversity Oral comment – 8/6/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supports a ban on wildlife killing contests. b. Encourage the Commission to make sure the language prevents these contests regardless of the motivation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support noted. b. Comments is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
17	Robert Williams San Diego County Varmint Callers Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.
18	Randall Massaro Union Member for Preservation of Wildlife Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Opposed to hunting and urges Commission to work with Project Coyote.	Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation change. The proposed change clarifies existing statute regarding contests and does not address hunting in general.
19	Harold Pick Oral comment – 8/6/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.
20 21	Don Jamroz Oral comment – 8/6/2014 Written comment – 8/6/2014	Concerned California is out of step with our neighbors on the coyote problem; coyote hunting is a safe sport as noted by DFW's own statistics.	Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation change. The proposed change clarifies existing statute regarding hunting contests and does not address coyote hunting in general.
23	Patricia Smith Modoc County Fish, Game and Recreation Commission Oral comment – 10/8/2014	Add injurious field rodents to the list of nongame mammals exempt from the Commission's proposed regulatory change meant to resolve the inconsistent treatment of game and nongame mammals.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to add exempted species in Section 2003, Fish and Game Code.
24	Hilary Pickles LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics Oral comment – 10/8/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support noted. b. Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all

		<p>mammals.</p> <p>b. Urge Commission to adopt a full ban on wildlife hunting contests.</p>	<p>wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.</p>
25	<p>Kimberly Boester</p> <p>Oral comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
26	<p>Keli Hendricks</p> <p>Petaluma Rancher</p> <p>Oral comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
27	<p>Noelle Cremers</p> <p>CA Farm Bureau</p> <p>Oral + written comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Urge Commission to address the potential unintended consequences that may result. Ranchers and farmers see significant impact from ground squirrels and they need an exemption.</p>	<p>Commission does not have authority to make a statutory change. Exempting ground squirrels and other injurious rodents requires a statutory change.</p>
28	<p>Camilla Fox</p> <p>Project Coyote</p> <p>Oral comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals. Ground squirrels could be controlled by coyotes.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
29	<p>Kelsey Eberly</p> <p>Animal Legal Defense Fund</p> <p>Oral comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
30	<p>Chris Howard</p> <p>Alexandre Family EcoDairy Farm</p> <p>Oral comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Requests an exemption to the rule for ground squirrels to help manage the problem occurring on our dairy farms.</p>	<p>Commission does not have authority to make a statutory change. Exempting ground squirrels and other injurious rodents requires a statutory change.</p>
31	<p>Frank Galea</p> <p>Del Norte County Fish and Game Advisory Commission</p> <p>Oral comment – 10/8/2014</p>	<p>Requests Commission provide landowners with enough flexibility and tools necessary to properly manage their property.</p>	<p>Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation change. The proposed change only clarifies the intent of the statute.</p>

32	Ron Wenworth Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/1/2014	Urges Commission to ban wildlife killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
33	Nancy Smith Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/1/2014	Requests Commission to ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
34	Becky Donlan Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/2/2014	Requests Commission to immediately stop killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
35	Lance and Su Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/2/2014	Requests clarification about whether a trophy, raffles, and BBQs are considered prizes.	Comment noted. The proposed change uses the same language in the statute for clarity.
36	Dr. Kelly Dunn Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/3/2014	Requests Commission ban all wildlife killing contests and trapping in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests and trapping; such actions require changes in statutes.
37	Carla Franklin Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/3/2014	Requests Commission ban all wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
38	Linda MacKay Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/5/2014	Requests Commission use their power to ban wildlife killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
39	Didem Coban Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/6/2014	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
40	Melody Lee- Gattenby Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/7/2014	Requests the Commission ban all wildlife killing competitions in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
	Sophie Tramel Concerned citizen	Requests Commission vote to ban all wildlife killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such

41	Written comment – 9/8/2014		action requires a change in statute.
	Steve Tyler Concerned citizen	Requests Commission prohibit wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
42	Written comment – 9/9/2014		
	Candace Rocha Concerned citizen	Supports banning wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
43	Written comment – 9/9/2014		
	Dan Silver Endangered Habitats League	Urges Commission to ban coyote and other predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator killing contests; such action requires a change in statute.
44	Written comment – 9/9/2014		
	James Mapes Concerned citizen	Requests Commission to ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
45	Written comment – 9/9/2014		
	Sandy Commons Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
46	Written comment – 9/9/2014		
	Edward + Beatrice Simpson Concerned citizens	Requests Commission ban predator killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator killing contests; such action requires a change in statute.
47	Written comment – 9/9/2014		
	Laura Sneddon Concerned citizen	Opposes wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
48	Written comment 9/10/2014		
	Michele King Concerned citizen	Requests Commission immediately and permanently ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
49	Written comment 9/10/2014		
	Laurel Hines Concerned citizen	Urges Commission to ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
50	Written comment – 9/13/2014		
	Rene Alvarez Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such

51	Written comment – 9/15/2014		action requires a change in statute.
52	Antelope Valley Conservancy Board of Directors Written comment – 9/15/2014	Resolution in support of statewide prohibition on wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
53	Kim Blaquera Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/15/2014	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
54	Cherylynn Costner Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/17/2014	Requests Commission ban all sport killing contests against wildlife in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all sport killing contests; such action requires a change in statute.
55	Carol Eliason Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/19/2014	Requests Commission stop killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife killing contests; such action requires a change in statute.
56	Louis Gauci Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/21/2014	Urges Commission to ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
57	Robert McCombs Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/26/2014	a. Support Commission’s proposal to restrict inducements for nongame and fur-bearing mammals. b. Requests Commission consider completely banning killing contests.	Support noted. Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
58	Peter Martin Concerned citizen Written comment – 9/28/2014	Requests Commission stop hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
59	Michelle Ognjanovic Concerned citizen Written comments – 10/2/2014	Urges Commission to permanently ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
	Dr. Louisa Parks Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such

60	Written comments – 10/2/2014		action requires a change in statute.
	Dale LaCognata Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
61	Written comments – 10/2/2014		
	Beth Levine Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The proposed regulation does not establish additional restrictions but clarifies existing statutes.
62	Written comments – 10/2/2014		
	Joe and Joan Becker Concerned citizens	Requests Commission not institute additional restrictions on organizations conducting contests of wildlife and fish management programs.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
63	Written comment – 10/2/2014		
	Erin Hauge Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests in California.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
64	Written comment – 10/2/2014		
	Yves Garin Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
65	Written comment – 10/3/2014		
	Arlene Clarke Concerned citizen	Requests Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
66	Written comment – 10/3/2014		
	Cindy Young Concerned citizen	Requests Commission stop killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
67	Written comment – 10/5/2014		
	Mitch Miller Concerned citizen	Requests Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
68	Written comment – 10/5/2014		
	Gary York Concerned citizen	Killing coyotes increases their numbers.	Comment noted.
69	Written comment – 10/7/2014		
	Richard Taylor Concerned citizen	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such

70	Written comment – 10/9/2014		action requires a change in statute.
71	Ruth Olafsdottir Concerned citizen Written comment – 10/23/14	Requests Commission to stop all hunting contests and permits.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
72	John Oda Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/5/2014	Requests Commission end coyote killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all coyote hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
73	Anthony Montapert Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/5/2014	Favors ban on wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
74	Keli Hendricks Concerned citizen, rancher Written comment – 11/5/2014	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
75	Patsy Lowe Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/5/2014	Requests Commission stop coyote killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
76	Jan Mulholland Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/5/2014	Requests Commission stop coyote killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
77	Monita and Gworge DuFort Concerned citizens Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission ban all contest hunting.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
78	Lisa Wade Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
79	Maggie Rufo Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How can the Commission let predator killing contests continue? b. Commission should require that people try all non-lethal means of depredation before lethal means are used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute. b. Comments are outside the scope of proposed regulation change.

80	Lance Moseley Concerned citizen Written comment - 11/6/2014	Requests Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
81	Monique Biglia Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission to prohibit predator killing contests and develop regulations to modernize predator management.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission and Department are evaluating management options.
82	Jack Beren Concerned citizen Written comments – 11/6/2014	Favors ban on predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
83	Deborah Wood-Castaneda Concerned citizen Written comments – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission ban predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
84	Diane Nygaard Concerned citizen Written comments – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission to eliminate wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
85	Ann Anterasian Concerned citizen Written comments – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission consider banning coyote hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all coyote hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
86	Teresa Norris Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission ban wildlife hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
87	Ron Bottorff Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission stop wildlife hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
88	Lisa Landers Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests Commission stop wildlife hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
89	Janet Kessler Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/6/2014	Requests the Commission stop coyote killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all coyote hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.

90	Janet Kessler Coyote Coexistence Written comment – 11/7/2014	Requests the Commission ban all coyote killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all coyote hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
91	Shauna Artman Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/7/2014	Requests the Commission end all wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
92	Catherine Keegan Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/7/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit wildlife killing competitions.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
93	Lee Schmid Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/7/2014	Requests the Commission end wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
94	Jane White Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/8/2014	Requests the Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
95	Christina Eliason Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/8/2014	Requests the Commission ban all wildlife hunting.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
96	Patricia Meyer Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/8/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
97	Kay Bushnell Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/9/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
98	Erica Stanojevic Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/10/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
99	Kaitlin Drury Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/10/2014	Requests the Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.

100	Norene Charnofsky Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/11/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
101	Sharon Ponsford Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/12/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
102	Samuel Harrison Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/13/2014	Requests the Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
103	Katherine Malchiodi Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/14/2014	Requests the Commission end wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
104	Joanne White Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/16/2014	Requests the Commission stop wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
105	Christine Eustaquio Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/16/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
106 107	Don Jamroz Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/17/2014 Written comment – 11/17/2014	Concerned that any actions to suppress the take of predators will negatively impact the deer population.	Comment noted. The proposed regulation clarifies statute.
108	Nancy Mauthe Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/17/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife hunting.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban wildlife hunting; such action requires a change in statute.
109	Chelsea W. Concerned citizen Written Comment – 11/18/2014	Supports the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.
	Chris Jones Concerned citizen	Opposed to wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the

110	Written comment – 11/18/2014		authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
111	Beth Katte Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
112	William Porter Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission ban hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
113	Cathleen Griffin Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit predator killing derbies and contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator contests and derbies; such action requires a change in statute.
114	Sonia Valdivia Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
115	Cathy Morton Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Opposes coyote killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all coyote hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
116	Jack Vermilion Concerned person Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
117	Michele Chandler Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
118	Margaret Stephens Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission ban wildlife hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
119	Roseanne Bentley Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission stop all contests that reward the death of wild creatures.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
	Niki Conrad	Requests the Commission ban all	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed

120	Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	predator killing contests.	rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
121	Diane Huffine Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Supports prohibiting inducements for hunting contests.	Support noted.
122	Cody Dolnick Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Supports prohibiting inducements for hunting contests.	Support noted.
123	Roberta Frederick Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Supports prohibiting inducements for hunting contests.	Support noted.
124	Christina Platou Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
125	Deborah Collin Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/19/2014	Requests the Commission end predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
126	Judith Mitchell Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/20/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
127	Rob DiPerna Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) Written comment – 11/20/2014	EPIC and petition signatories support the proposed rule change to clarify that Section 2003 of Fish and Game Code prohibits inducements for take of furbearers and nongame mammals.	Support noted.
128	Donna Thomas Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/20/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit all coyote hunting contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all coyote hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
129	Michele Jankelow Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/20/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit all predator killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all predator hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.

130	Miriam Seger Concerned citizen Written comment – 11/20/2014	Requests Commission end wildlife killing contests.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
131	Monte Merrick Bird Ally/Humboldt Wildlife Care Center/California Council of Wildlife Rehabilitators Written comment – 11/20/2014	Supports prohibiting inducements for hunting contests	Support noted.
132	Rick Bulloch APECS Written comment – 11/20/2014	Prefer to see issue deferred to developing predator management plan.	Comment noted. The Commission moved this action out of the predator management discussion and moved to notice this proposed change at the April 2014 meeting.
133	Sample Form Email #1 37 comments received between 8/29/2014 to 11/20/2014	Requests Commission ban wildlife killing contests in California and offers several reasons in support of the request.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to ban all wildlife hunting contests; such action requires a change in statute.
134	Sample Form Email #2 2,250 comments received between 8/29/2014 to 11/20/2014	Supports Commission's proposal to restrict inducements for hunting contests for non-game and fur-bearing mammals.	Support noted.
135	Sample Form Email #3 8 comments received between 8/29/2014 to 11/20/2014	Requests Commission prohibit wildlife killing contests and develop comprehensive regulations to reform and modernize predator management.	Comment outside the scope of proposed regulation changes. The Commission and Department are evaluating management options.
136	Sample Form Email #4 12 comments received between 8/29/2014 to 11/20/2014	Requests the Commission prohibit wildlife killing derbies.	Comment is outside the scope of the proposed rule change. The Commission does not have the authority to prohibit wildlife killing derbies; such action requires a change in statute.

Attachment B

Copies of the letters and emails received during the
Notice period through November 20, 2014.

25 June, 2014



Mr. Sonke Mastrup
 Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission

Dear Director Mastrup,

This letter is in response to the discussion on predator contests that occurred at the 4 June, 2014, Commission meeting. As stated by April Wakeman at that meeting, the San Diego County Wildlife Federation supports the regulatory change in contest hunting presented at that meeting, with the caveat that “inducement” needs to be better defined. Furthermore, we support efforts to ban “killing contests”. However, we fear that the attempt to further change regulations will impact contests that we consider ethical. One idea that has been mentioned is to ban all contests.

We believe it is important to distinguish contests based on the number of animals killed from contests in which the goal is to take the most desirable animal. Probably the best examples are “big buck” contests often held by local general stores or sporting goods stores. Hunters generally only have one tag, so the “inducement” of the contest does not result in any additional animals being killed. The major impact is that a hunter will make a conscious effort to take an older buck. This is actually good game management, since it culls the herd of an older, and often weaker, animal while preserving a younger, healthier buck. And while winning a “big buck” contest does confer recognition (bragging rights?) on the winner, it is not done for the joy of killing; the winner’s main purpose is to provide game for his/her table.

At the meeting, it was stated that there was no intent to impact Boone and Crockett. Boone and Crockett maintains a registry of the biggest game taken, typically by the size of the animal’s horns or antlers. These are exactly the criteria used in big buck contests, and the primary inducement for both is recognition. We feel it would be inconsistent to claim to support Boone and Crockett and at the same time to ban “big buck” contests.

The San Diego County Wildlife Federation implores the Commission to distinguish “killing contests” (which we oppose) from contests which emphasize the quality of the game taken. We believe that these local contests and Boone and Crockett are consistent with ethical hunting.

Respectfully,

Robert R. Smith
 President, San Diego County Wildlife Federation
 rsmith@cox.net

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COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 10

PROJECT COYOTE

Camilla Fox

FOSTERING COEXISTENCE



To: CA Fish and Game Commission & DFW Director Chuck Bonham
From: Camilla Fox, Founder & Executive Director of Project Coyote
Re: Agenda item #10- "DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING OFFERING INDUCEMENTS FOR HUNTING CONTESTS"
Date: Aug. 6, 2014

As the organization that petitioned you to ban wildlife killing contests I'm pleased to say that we support the proposed rule change that would help clarify the intent of section 2003 of the Fish and Game code making it illegal to provide inducements and prizes for the killing of furbearers and nongame mammals statewide.

Our support is with one caveat. We do not support the inclusion of the sentence "For the purposes of this section prizes and inducements are items of monetary value."

Nowhere in section 2003 are prizes and inducements limited to items of monetary value. Our concern is that a killing contest like the Coyote Drive up in Modoc County could continue in perpetuity by just shifting the prizes from cash, guns and belt buckles to ribbons and trophies -- because according to Mr. Mastrup "of monetary value" would be interpreted not to include things like ribbons and trophies.

We recommend a slight modification to clarify the intent of the rule change. Specifically we recommend adding:

"including but not limited to items of monetary value, cash trophies, ribbons"

- to the draft rule. This clarification will ensure consistency with code Section 2003 and will provide clarity to the department and to law-enforcement about the scope of this rule.

As you know, Warden Bob Perra was seriously injured by a predator killing contestant who was targeting coyotes on Valentine's Day in El Dorado County.

Officer Perra was shot in his truck while conducting surveillance of this predator killing contest that targeted both coyotes and foxes – and possibly bobcats- and took place at night. Bullet fragments entered Perra's neck and he was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Thankfully Perra has recovered and is back on the job.

After an investigation into that incident, the El Dorado County sheriff's department recommended to the DA's office that the coyote hunter who shot Perra be charged with "reckless discharge of a firearm creating great bodily injury."

We certainly also hope that the shooter will lose his hunting privileges – as I know Department law enforcement is pressing for as well.

Had this proposed rule been in place- and enforced- Perra would not have been shot and this nighttime predator killing contest would not have been legal.

We hope you will do the right thing today and go to notice with this proposed rule- with the recommended amendment.

Thank you.

Subsection 465, Title 14, is amended to read:

§ 465. Methods General Provisions for Taking Furbearers.

(1) Furbearing mammals may be taken only with a firearm, bow and arrow, or with the use of dogs, or traps in accordance with the provisions of Section 465.5 of these regulations and Section 3003.1 of the Fish and Game Code.

(2) Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2003, it is unlawful to offer any prize or other inducement **[ADD: including but not limited to items of monetary value, cash trophies, ribbons]** as a reward for the taking of furbearers in an individual contest, tournament, or derby. **[STRIKE: For the purposes of this section prizes and inducements are items of monetary value.]**

§ 472. General Provisions.

(e) Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2003, it is unlawful to offer any prize or other inducement **[ADD: including but not limited to items of monetary value, cash trophies, ribbons]** as a reward for the taking of nongame mammals in an individual contest, tournament, or derby. **[STRIKE: For the purposes of this section prizes and inducements are items of monetary value.]**

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Coyotes in Urban Areas: AUG 06 2014

Conflicts and Solutions

COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 10

Ron Stephens

Martha Grinder¹ and Paul R. Krausman²

Abstract.—Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are well-adapted to diverse environments throughout North America, including the increasing urban areas. In urban areas, coyotes come into conflict with humans. We discuss these conflicts, investigate how governments deal with the conflicts, and describe our research on coyotes in Tucson. Few humans have been attacked by coyotes in recent years, but small pets are in danger from attacks by coyotes. We conducted a survey at 22 veterinary clinics throughout Tucson, and found that small dogs are most often treated for coyote attacks. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has issued a brochure recommending ways that urban-dwellers can deter coyotes from an area; the primary way is to eliminate all sources of food and water. Tucson, Arizona and other cities have adopted policies to deal with coyote-human conflicts; these policies emphasize education, with trapping and removing individual coyotes being considered only as a last resort. Further education is needed to more effectively teach people about coyotes. Studies are also necessary of the habits of urban coyotes. We are currently conducting research on radiocollared coyotes in Tucson, and have found that coyotes do not tend to become habituated to humans if they are not encouraged to do so.

INTRODUCTION

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are one of the least specialized, most primitive living members of their genus (Nowak 1978). As such, they have adapted to diverse environments throughout North America (Bekoff 1982). Coyotes were originally confined to the great plains, but now inhabit all of North America, and are being seen in areas as far south as the Yucatan peninsula, Mexico (Gier 1975, Nowak 1978, Sosa-Escalante et al. 1997).

Concurrent with the expansion of the coyote's range has been the expansion of urban areas throughout North America, including the Southwest. Coyotes have adapted to life in the city (Howell 1982, Quinn 1991), and their expanding distribution has been the subject of newspaper ar-

¹ Graduate Research Associate, Wildlife and Fisheries Program, The School of Renewable Natural Resources, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721

² Professor, Wildlife and Fisheries Program, The School of Renewable Natural Resources, The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721

ticles in cities such as Mahwah, New Jersey, Chicago, Illinois, Los Angeles, California, Tucson, Arizona, and Langley Washington. Their presence in these urban centers has met with mixed reactions from the human residents of these areas. We discuss the conflicts that surround the presence of coyotes in urban areas, investigate how city and county governments are dealing with these conflicts, and describe our research on coyotes in Tucson.

HOW DOES THE PUBLIC FEEL ABOUT COYOTES?

The public's view of coyotes has recently changed. Once considered by most people to be vermin, the coyote now receives our respect and aide. A resident of a New Jersey county that initiated a bounty hunt on coyotes fasted to lose 11.25 kg in protest of the hunt (Tedeschi 1997). Phoenix wildlife rehabilitator Linda Searles especially loves coyotes, seeing in them the spirit of the southwestern deserts (Aleshire 1997). Michael Soule, renowned conservation biologist, comments that coyotes are a part of the healthy ecosystem and that removing them from an area will have serious deleterious consequences (Soule 1996).

Other urban dwellers fear and distrust the coyote. A resident of Sun City Phoenix recently was followed to her doorstep by a coyote and says that she "...was never more terrified in my life..." (Ellison 1994). She wonders how long it will be before coyotes discover that they can attack and bring down one of her frail, elderly neighbors. A Tucson resident, after losing her cat of 15 years, wrote to the Arizona Daily Star to complain that city officials have more sympathy for urban coyotes than for domestic pets. Residents of Tucson's northwest side have complained of numerous occasions when they have been followed and/or attacked by coyotes in Holy Hope Cemetery.³ A north-Phoenix resident has only recently become unnerved by the presence of coyotes, stating that "...they are getting braver and they're starting to come up under our bedroom window at night" (O'Grady 1996).

RECORDS OF RECENT COYOTE ATTACKS ON HUMANS

Urban dwellers' fears of coyotes are not unfounded. Within the last year, 2 boys in Scottsdale, Arizona were bit by coyotes. The boys were 3 and 7 years old; both boys were playing outside near their homes when they were bitten (Jackson and Askari 1997). In Tucson, Arizona an 18-month-old girl was bitten in a west-side city park by a coyote. In 1994, an 11-year-old girl in Bagdad, Arizona, was playing in her backyard with a

³ Unpublished letters to The Arizona Game and Fish Department

WESTERN
OUTDOOR
NEWS 5/23/14 P. 4

Reader Response

PERSPECTIVE

Coyotes are a major cause of fawn deaths

BY BILL KARR
WON Staff Writer

It's pretty amazing to me, even after some years of seeing folks in "high-up" places doing "down-right" stupid things in this state, that they can keep coming up with ever stupider ideas.

One of them is the consideration by the DFW and the Fish and Game Commission to even consider pleas by the anti-hunting groups to begin controlling the take of coyotes in California.

The concept is coming from a very tiny, fringe, animal-rights, anti-hunting group: Project Coyote, down in the Los Angeles area. It's obvious they have teamed up with Jennifer Tearing of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), because they didn't have the clout to do anything before. But now, they sit alongside Tearing on a Fish and Game Committee, and even while HSUS doesn't have anywhere near the number of supporters they say they do, some folks believe their line.

Why should Project Coyote or HSUS be on any committee that considers anything having to do with wildlife management when they have one agenda: to stop hunting? They don't bring anything whatsoever to the table in the way of science or facts. Sure, they spout things from "scientists," but those "scientists" are also avowed animal-rights activists, and anybody can say anything, if it's not fact-checked. And the Fish and Game Commission leaves that up to the DFW, and the DFW doesn't do it unless the politically-appointed head of the DFW has them do it.

Here's a little eye-opener about the impacts of coyotes on deer populations: According to Grand View Outdoors, a story in Whitetail Journal, Dec. 19, 2013, had the following account:

"Seven years ago, Charles Ruth gave little thought to the effect of coyotes on deer populations. As the deer project leader for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, he fielded calls from hunters concerned about the state's growing coyote population and what seemed like a decrease in deer. There's no question coyotes eat fawns, but Ruth figured the predators couldn't possibly keep up with South Carolina's booming deer population. Coyotes simply weren't anything to be concerned about.

"I'm a Southeast deer biologist. I was trained in the Southeast and I've always worked in the Southeast," he says. "Coyotes just weren't part of the equation for much of my career, so when I started examining coyotes and deer, I got my information from western biolo-

PERSPECTIVE 17

WON

Perspective...

Continued from page 4

gists in states that have always had coyotes. Deer and coyotes seem to get along just fine in those western states, so I assumed the same thing was happening here."

"But then Ruth participated in a six-year in-depth study. The first leg, which lasted three years, examined coyote predation on fawn mortality. Researchers captured does and placed transmitters in them that fell out when they gave birth. They then captured the newborn fawns and fitted them with tracking collars and monitored their survival rates. If the collar stopped moving for a set period of time, indicating the fawn had died, researchers went to the site and determined the cause of mortality.

"The results were astounding. Researchers involved in the study, which took place on the grounds of the Savannah River nuclear facility site, knew coyotes ate deer fawns. They had no idea they ate so many. As it turned out, 80 percent of the fawns that died from all causes were killed by coyotes.

Other studies have found similar predation rates. One con-

ducted in Alabama by researchers at Auburn University attached radio collars to seven fawns. Only one survived, and five of the six mortalities were likely caused by coyotes. Another Alabama study found that coyotes accounted for more than half of all fawn mortalities."

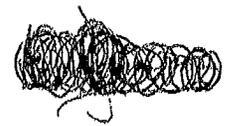
And in another story:

"After hunters in Pennsylvania voiced concern over the increase in coyotes and an apparent decrease in deer numbers in some parts of the state, biologists with the Pennsylvania Game Commission conducted a lengthy study to determine fawn mortality and predation. The results weren't necessarily earthshaking. It found that nearly half of all fawns in agricultural landscapes died from a variety of causes within 34 weeks of birth, while a whopping 62 percent died in forested habitat. Of those that died, over 46 percent were killed by predators. The rest fell to disease, cars and a variety of other causes. Nearly 37 percent were killed by coyotes, but almost as many, 33 percent, were killed by black bears."

Great, just what we need here in California where all of the

deer populations are in big trouble. We have now and have had for decades a huge, growing and uncontrolled mountain lion population thanks to an ignorant voting public. Add to that a huge and increasing bear population that will be growing even more without the use of hound hunting, and compounded by the existing coyote kill of fawns — even without any change in their take — and our deer herds are in for a very tough future.

Unfortunately, our wildlife managers here in California are now more concerned about the vociferous anti's than the hunting public, and that won't change until we change the wildlife managers.



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COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 10

Steven Childs

California Department of Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Mr. Michael Sutton, President
Mr. Jack Baylis, Vice President
Mr. Jim Kellogg, Member
Mr. Richard B. Rogers, Member
Mrs. Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director

I would like to start by thanking the Fish and Game Commission for your hard work on clarifying the language in the fish and game code regarding hunting contests and inducements. Anytime the commission can make the language clear or easier to understand is appreciated.

I support the clarification to the F&G Code regarding predator hunting contests. I personally do not support hunting for money, I support science based conservation and responsible wildlife management.

I am writing this letter to demonstrate the inconsistencies in Project Coyote's ability to gather "science based" information.

- Project Coyote manipulates the mostly uninformed public by systematically ignoring scientific studies which do not support their claims.
- Their "hands off" management policy disregards the occasional need for lethal control putting the public and their pets at serious risk.

For these reasons alone, Project Coyote should **not** be considered a credible source of information regarding predators in California.

I have taken the time to put together clear examples which illustrate my points.

Project Coyote continually makes claims that the indiscriminate removal of coyotes does nothing to control their numbers and actually increases coyote populations. I agree... most efforts to remove coyotes are ineffective but I take issue with the misrepresentation that removal increases coyote populations. Their allegation just defies logic and common sense.

The following information (in red) is from a book titled "Coyotes Biology, Behavior and Management¹" Edited by the first person listed on Project Coyote's advisory board: Dr Marc Bekoff.

¹ Coyotes: Biology, Behavior, and Management Edited by Marc Bekoff The Blackburn Press (2001)

Coyote populations do seem to respond to control by having increased litter sizes. Knowlton (1972) showed that the average litter size among coyotes in Texas varies with the intensity of control. He found 2.8-4.2 uterine swellings per female under light control and 6.2-8.9 where control was intensive.

Even when being heavily controlled, coyotes breed until carrying capacity is reached. Carrying capacity is determined by available food sources and suitable habitat. THIS IS BIOLOGY 101.

In a chapter titled "Natural limitations on coyote populations" "Nearly all animal populations fluctuate irregularly within limits that are extremely restricted compared with what is theoretically possible. Population levels of several species of carnivores have been shown to fluctuate in response to variations in the abundance of their principal prey (Lack 1954; Keith, 1974). Therefore, it is not surprising that most studies of the factors limiting coyote populations have identified FOOD as the predominant constraint (McLean 1934; Murie, 1940; Robinson, 1956; Gier 1968; Clark 1972; Nellis and Keith, 1976)"

It is noteworthy that the major studies documenting a relationship between food supplies and coyote reproductive success are from populations subject to intensive control. In both Curlew Valley, Utah (Clark, 1972) and Kansas (Gier, 1968), coyotes were subjected to heavy, man caused mortality but were not regulated by such mortality. The inference is that, even under intensive control, food supplies are an important if not the decisive factor limiting coyote numbers.

Project Coyote successfully advocated a ban on the use of "inhumane" (steel jawed leg hold and body gripping traps) in both the city of Los Angeles² and the city of Calabasas³, California, offering no effective alternatives for handling problem animals. Without a realistic management policy in place, this only serves to put the safety of children and pets at risk. Although cage traps are viewed as a humane method of trapping, they are rarely effective when used for trapping coyotes.⁴

It's a documented fact that attacks on people by coyotes have drastically risen since the passage of Proposition 4 in 1998⁵ which banned the use of steel jawed leg hold and body gripping traps for recreational purposes.⁶

Understanding the need for sensible management, even the proponents of prop 4 said it WILL ALLOW the use of leg hold traps and other wildlife management techniques:

- to protect human health and safety
- to protect property, levees and canals

² <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-city-council-animal-traps-20140409-story.html#axzz2yXO0tLPk>

³ <http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/pdf/agendas/council/2011/101211/item14-attachment-1.pdf>

⁴ http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdm_usdanwrc/519/

⁵ <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=vpc21>

⁶ [http://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_4,_Prohibition_on_Trapping_Fur-Bearing_Mammals_\(1998\)](http://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_4,_Prohibition_on_Trapping_Fur-Bearing_Mammals_(1998))

- to protect endangered wildlife
- to protect crops and livestock

Again, Project Coyote places an emphasis on politics while ignoring public safety.

Project Coyote says indiscriminate removal of coyotes is “disruptive to California’s native ecosystems” and would even like the commission to consider a new classification of “native carnivore” for coyotes. Several studies have pointed out the FACT that coyotes are non native species to California (Gier 1975, Nowak 1978, Sosa-Escalante et al. 1997)⁷.

In an April 2014 letter to the commission, Project Coyote writes; “These organized killing contests are sometimes organized and conducted under the inducement of prizes and monetary rewards and violate the concept of “fair chase.” Project Coyote cites The Boone & Crockett club (they are one of the largest conservation group success stories of this country) They refer to B&C’s stance of not supporting “programs, contests or competitions that directly place a bounty on game animals by awarding cash or expensive prizes for the taking of wildlife,” then adds “WKC’s contravene the Club’s “fair chase” motto. This is an outright misrepresentation.

I was able to contact Keith Balfour who is currently the Director of Marketing for the Boone and Crockett Club. He explained how Project Coyote does not speak for Boone and Crockett Club and how Project Coyote had taken information from the Boone and Crockett website out of context (please see attached email)

How an event is organized has nothing to do with the ethical standard of “fair chase.” Fair Chase, as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such animals.

What they failed to mention was an article written by Dr. Valerius Geist on the Boone & Crockett’s website which sheds light on their “Large Predators” policy.⁸

Modern research has shown that wolves switch to alternative prey species only very slowly, and that they do not target humans as long as there is prey or livestock between them and us. Moreover, **wolves targeting humans and urban coyotes targeting children do so in the same manner.** Surprising? Hardly! Surprising is only the argument that wolves pose no danger to people, a myth that has killed highly educated persons that trusted science.

Dr. Valerius Geist is Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary. He is a specialist on the biology, behavior,

⁷ http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_p005.pdf (page 235)

⁸ http://www.boone-crockett.org/conservation/conservation_gelst.asp?area=conservation&ID=DAF808F3&se=1&te=1

and social dynamics of large North American large mammals (elk, moose, bighorn sheep and other wild ungulates).⁹

Again, another manipulation of the facts putting politics ahead of public safety while ignoring the benefit of responsible wildlife management.

Again, I would like to reiterate that:

- Project Coyote is manipulating the mostly uninformed public by systematically ignoring scientific studies which do not support their claims.
- Their "hands off" management policy for coexistence ignores the basic need for public safety.

For these reasons, Project Coyote should **not** be considered a credible source of information regarding predators in California.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven Childs
California Resident
U.S. Army Veteran
Predator Hunter

⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerius_Gelst

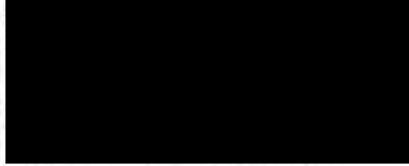
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COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 10

Don Jamroz

Don Jamroz



August 5, 2014

CA Fish & Game Commissioners:
Michael Sutton, Jack Baylis,
Jim Kellogg, Richard Rogers,
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

Re: Inducements for Hunting Contests
Agenda Item 10 A&B

Dear Commissioners:

Utah offers a \$50 bounty for the taking of coyotes. AZ has a coyote-calling contest called 'The Antelope Eaters' that is held annually. There the Fish & Game game wardens are a part of this event as well as a F&G biologist. Prizes are given. In 2014, there were 280 sportsmen that attended this event.

<http://www.mohavesportsmanclub.com/AntelopeEaters.html>

Nevada encourages coyote hunting by not requiring a hunting license.

Californians are out of step with our neighbors regarding predator control.

Contests are a very, very small part of the sport of coyote calling. Yet it would seem to me that in California the commissioners are trying to suppress this sport. Something to think about.

Sincerely,

Don Jamroz



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

1127-11TH STREET, SUITE 626, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 · PHONE (916) 446-4647

October 6, 2014

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OCT 08 2014

Mr. Michael Sutton, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 5

Nelle Cremers

RE: Discussion of Proposed Regulations to Prohibit Inducements for Nongame Mammal and Furbearer Hunting Contests (Sections 465 and 472, Title 14, CCR)

Dear Mr. Sutton:

The California Farm Bureau Federation (Farm Bureau) is writing to express concern with the proposal to ban all prizes and inducements, regardless of value, for the taking of nongame mammals. Farm Bureau represents more than 77,000 members as it strives to protect and improve the ability of farmers and ranchers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of California's resources. California's farmers and ranchers deal with numerous predators and pests that injure and kill livestock and damage and destroy crops. For many pests, there are limited tools available to control and prevent damage. It is important that farmers and ranchers not lose additional livestock and crop protection tools. The proposed amendment to Sections 465 and 472 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, threatens to do just that. Farm Bureau, respectfully requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) make further changes to its proposal to ensure there are not unintended consequences that lead to limits on controlling predators and pests.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Wildlife Research Center in 2009 analyzed crop losses caused by birds and rodents in 22 selected crops in 10 of California's counties. Losses from birds and rodents to the 22 crops reviewed were estimated from \$168 million to \$504 million annually¹. In 1998 an analysis estimated that ground squirrels alone caused between \$8 and \$12 million in damage to California crops². Belding's ground squirrels are a particular problem in Northeastern California. These squirrels do not consume poison bait, making control options much more limited. These squirrels can cause significant damage to individual alfalfa hay fields. In Modoc County it is estimated that untreated fields can lose up to a quarter of the crop. With current alfalfa prices, this can mean a loss of more than \$200 per acre.

To limit losses from Belding's ground squirrels, farmers have invited individuals out to shoot squirrels as one of the few control methods available. Shooting is a time consuming control method, but because the squirrels do not consume poison bait, there are very few control options

¹ Shwiff, S.A. et al. The Economic Impact of Bird and Rodent Damage to California Crops. USDA National Wildlife Research Center. 2009.

² Ibid.

October 6, 2014

Page 2

available. Under the Commission's proposed regulation to prohibit the offering of any prize or inducement for the taking of a nongame mammal in a contest, tournament, or derby there is a significant possibility that farmers would no longer be able to promote shooting ground squirrels as a means of controlling these pests.

Additionally, muskrats can cause significant damage to levees and irrigation systems as well as causing some crop damage. As a furbearer, there are restrictions on methods of take, and due to the damage that they cause, it is important that there not be further limitations on efforts to control them. The proposed changes to Section 465 could restrict landowners or irrigation districts from offering rewards for the taking of muskrats.

Farm Bureau respectfully requests that exclusions for injurious rodents be made to the proposed regulation. Specifically in section 465 add a new subsection:

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), prizes or inducements valued at less than \$500 should not be prohibited for the taking of injurious rodents.

Specifically in section 472 add a new subsection:

(f) Notwithstanding subsection (e), prizes or inducements valued at less than \$500 should not be prohibited for the taking of injurious field rodents.

These changes should limit the unintended consequences of restricting potential tools available for controlling rodent pests. Farm Bureau respectfully requests that the Commission accept these changes prior to the scheduled hearing to adopt the regulations in December.

Sincerely,



Noelle G. Cremers
Director, Natural Resources and Commodities

CC: Members, Fish and Game Commission
Mr. Chuck Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission

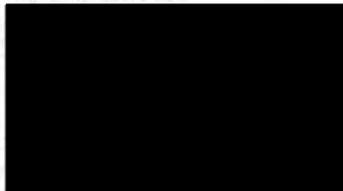
From: [Ron Wentworth](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcovote.org
Subject: Ban Contest Killing of Non-Game Wildlife
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 10:58:46 AM

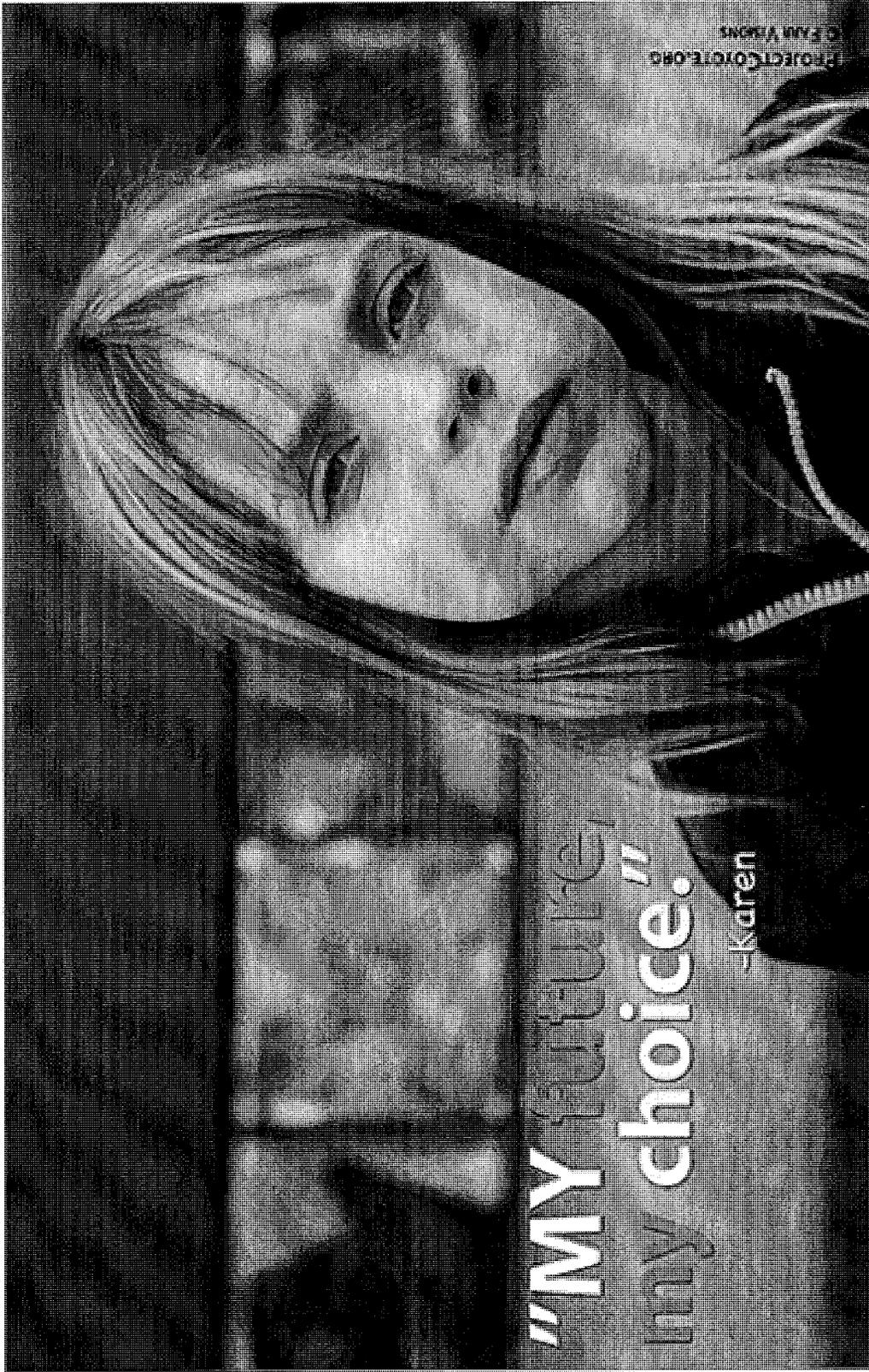
Dear Commissioners,

Please view the attached jpeg image of a young lady named Karen. I stand with Karen to help ban the legal slaughter of California's wildlife for thrills and cheap prizes. I urge you to ban these wildlife killing contests in California.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Ron Wentworth





**"MY FUTURE
my choice."**

-Karen

PROJECT COYOTE.ORG
© PAUL VIKONS

BAN

**wildlife
killing
contests NOW**



From: [Nancy Smith](#)
To: [FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Ban wildlife killing contests
Date: Monday, September 01, 2014 7:39:58 AM

Dear California Fish and Game Commission and California Department of Fish & Wildlife,
Director, Charlton H. Bonham:

The time has come to ban wildlife killing contests. As Project Coyote points out, coyote populations that are left to manage themselves form stable social structures that are self-limiting. Indiscriminate killing, on the other hand, disrupts this social stability and leads to increased reproduction and greater pup survival. If those who participate in these contests were really interested in working towards balancing wildlife or protecting livestock, these contests and the mass slaughter would not be taking place.

It is in your power to end cruel wildlife slaughters and as a concerned and caring California citizen, I'm asking you to do so now.

Thank you,

Nancy Smith



From: [Becky Donlan](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: animal killing contests
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 3:03:10 PM

California Fish and Game Commission
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

cc:
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Charlton H. Bonham, Director
director@wildlife.ca.gov

Project Coyote

(Please remember to include us, as we are tracking letters sent.) info@projectcoyote.org

Dear Sirs:

These hunting, no SLAUGHTER, methods are deplorable, disgusting, immoral. What are you thinking???? Killing contests??? Why??? I will do everything I can to let people know what goes on in California.

These animals have just as much right to live as you do. Please stop this NOW, IMMEDIATELY.

Sincerely,
Becky Donlan

From: Lance and Su
To: FGC; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Notice - Prohibition of Prizes for Take of Furbearers and Nongame Mammals
Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 9:25:36 PM

Well, the way I read this it's all in the verbiage. HOW DOES THE CLUB TEAM WITH THE MOST ANIMALS GET THE TROPHY FOR THE YEAR WITH OUT IT BEING A PRIZE ? Or, it would be ok to have the Strubble Memorial hunt if no trophy was given. Just have raffles and BBQ after the hunt. What are your thoughts guys ?

On 09/02/14, California Fish and Game Commission<fgc@fgc.ca.gov> wrote:



FGC_Logo



Greetings fish and wildlife stakeholder,

A notice regarding the proposed changes to prohibit prizes for take of furbearers and nongame mammals has been posted at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2014/index.aspx#465>.

Please refer to the notice for additional information.

Sincerely,

Caren Woodson
California Fish and Game Commission

Forward this email



This email was sent to ljcranch@verizon.net by fgc@fgc.ca.gov | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



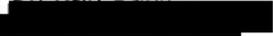
36

From: [Nic D](#)
To: [FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Cc: info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: Please BAN all wildlife killing contests in CA!
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 11:46:21 AM

Dear, Ms. Bonham,

Please kindly BAN all wildlife killing contests and trapping in the State of California. Such contests are inhumane, cruel and barbaric and should have NO PLACE in California. As a California resident, I will make sure not to vote for anyone who approves such sickening contests.

Kind regards,
Dr. Kelly Dunn



From: [REDACTED]
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Ban all wildlife killing contest.
Date: Wednesday, September 03, 2014 2:41:26 AM

Ban all wildlife killing contest. Its discusting, inhumane and cruelty to animals. The state should be totally embarrassed if it decides to support it. Shame to you. Please don't support animal cruelty.

Thanks,

Carla Franklin

From: [Linda MacKay](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Wildlife killing contests
Date: Friday, September 05, 2014 11:30:57 AM

Dear CA Fish and Game Commision,
I'm writing you today because soon you will have the opportunity to end the archaic and barbaric practice of wildlife killing contests.

I strongly believe these types of contests bring out the worst in hunters. It becomes about quantity of the hunted instead of a more balanced hunt of one person and one animal.

When I've seen the aftermath of these contest in photos (for instance rows and rows of dead coyotes) I can't help but imagine the horror and terror the poor animals must have felt when so many hunters were out killing so many of their kind at once.

These contests are not a sport, but an unhealthy game that only creates massive imbalances in nature that produces more problems than it solves.

California needs to be one of the leaders in stopping these unproductive & inhumane killing contests.

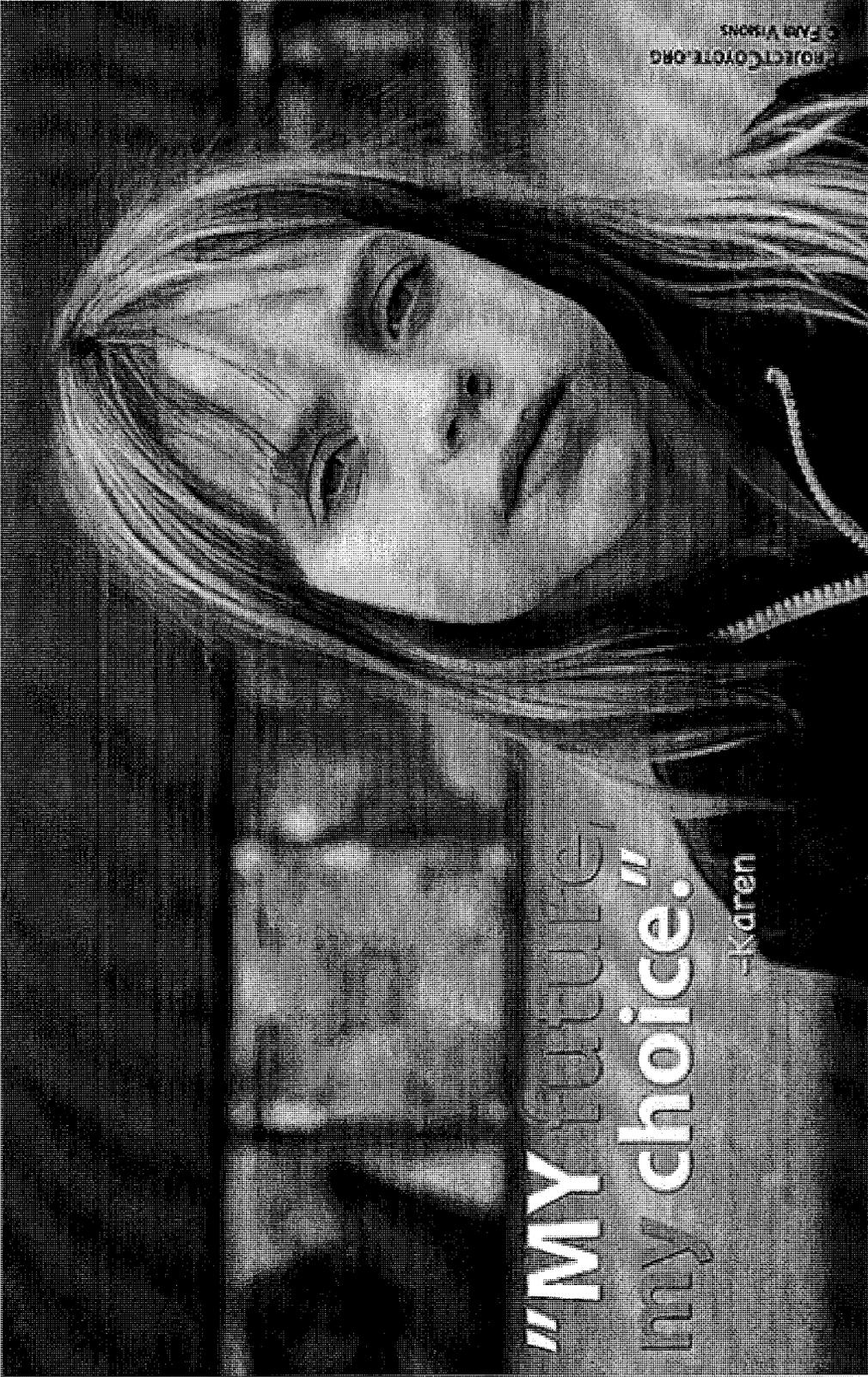
I'm asking you today to use your power to ban wildlife killing contests in California.

Sincerely,
Linda MacKay



From: [didem_coban](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcovote.org
Subject: Karen's Message
Date: Saturday, September 06, 2014 3:57:23 AM

BAN wildlife killing contests in California!
killing isn't something to contest!



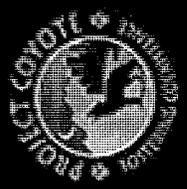
**"MY FUTURE
my choice."**

-Karen

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© FARM VISIONS

BAN

**wildlife
killing
contests NOW**





From: [melody lee-gattenby](#)
To: FGC
Subject: My supporting vote to ban wildlife killing contests in California
Date: Sunday, September 07, 2014 1:14:53 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am respectfully adding my voice to Karen's.

I would like to ask that the Commission Bans all wildlife killing competitions in the State of California - my former home and where many of my friends reside.

This is not acceptable in the State of California and I trust that this will be stopped.

Yours sincerely,

Melody Lee-Gattenby



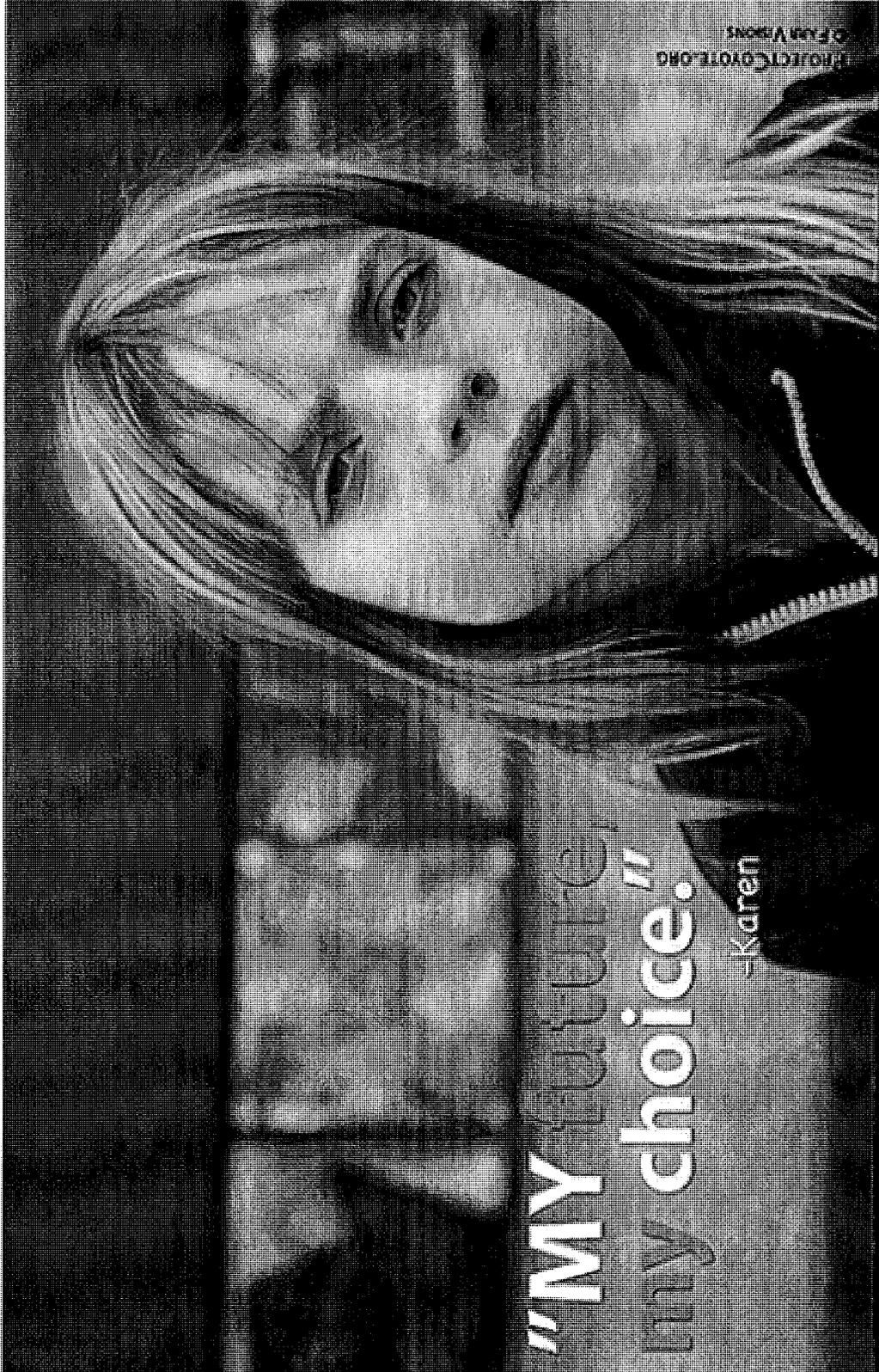
From: [Sophie Tramel](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcove.org
Subject: Please Vote to Ban Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Monday, September 08, 2014 2:56:29 AM

My family agrees with Karen; please vote to BAN wildlife killing contests in California. They are cruel & sadistic, and wholly unnecessary.

Thank you.

Sophie Tramel





**"MY culture,
my choice."**

-Karen

PROJECT COYOTE, ORG
OF OUR VISIONS

BAN

**wildlife
killing
contests NOW**



42

From: Steve Tyler
To: EGC
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 11:37:13 PM

Please see to it that wildlife killing contests are not allowed.
Steve Tyler



43

From: Candace Rocha
To: FCC
Subject: Oct. 8th hearing re: Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 9:57:25 AM

To Whom it concerns:

I am a California resident who will not be able to attend the hearing on Oct. 8th but I wanted to express my support in favor of banning wildlife killing contests. I think its barbaric and sends the wrong message to the public if these contests are allowed to continued. It is not OK to kill animals for fun and prizes. Please make the right decision and set a trend for the rest of nation to follow.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Candace Rocha

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

44

From: Dan Silver
To: EGC
Cc: Wildlife DIRECTOR
Subject: Coyote killing contests - SUPPORT FOR BAN
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 9:41:36 AM

Honorable Chair and Members of the Commission:

The Endangered Habitats League urges you to ban coyote and other predator-killing contests. These cruel activities have no ecological or legitimate hunting function.

Sincerely,

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

213-804-2750
dsilverla@me.com
www.ehleague.org

45

From: [James mapes](#)
To: EGC
Subject: PLEASE
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 11:50:55 PM

Please do not allow WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS in our beautiful state of California. PLEASE BAN/OUTLAW the horrendous killing sprees!!

James Mapes

Carpe Diem

46

From: SANDY COMMONS
To: EGC
Subject: Please Ban Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 2:45:17 PM

Please ban these contests. What is the point in all of this killing. Wildlife is valuable, it is part of our world. If someone wants to kill a wild animal for food, OK. But to just kill for "the fun of it" is immoral and evil.

Thank you.

Sandy Commons



47

From: [Ed Simpson](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); [Project Coyote](#)
Subject: Predator Killing Contests
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 7:52:04 PM

Dear Commission Members:

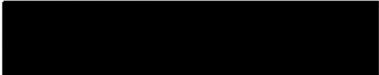
We strongly support a ban on predator killing contests in California. These contests are wrong on many levels including making people insensitive to the suffering of animals and the disruption of natural populations of predator and prey species.

Humans are responsible for the extinction of species, the degradation of habitat and the unnecessary suffering of animals. We do not believe with so many serious assaults on nature that we have the right to do anything but protect and preserve what is left.

We believe you know these contests are wrong, and we will watch for your vote.

Thank you.

Edward L. Simpson
Beatrice J. Simpson



From: [Laura Sneddon](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: Ban Wildlife-Killing Contests
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 12:44:48 AM

Dear California Fish and Game Commission ,

I'm writing in opposition of wildlife killing contests. I believe these cruel acts are purely stunts that allow a perpetuation of violence against wildlife and permit trophy hunters to get their sick pleasure from torturing living creatures.

Animals ought to be treated with the same respect as humans, they are living beings that have social structures and experience pain in the same way humans do. In a time when humans are the biggest threat to animals' due to developing animals' primary habitat, humans are already stressing animal populations. Humans do enough damage to animals' and their habitats on a daily day basis, there is no excuse or need to further damage them with special killing contests.

It seems that many times these killing contests are focused on the animal being evil because it's a predator. However, anyone who knows biology and science understands that predators are a part of a healthy ecosystem. One example of this is includes the control predators offer of rodents and rabbits which are associated with diseases such as plague, hantavirus, tularemia and Lyme disease. Further instances can be found from the success stories of the grey wolf being reintroduced to Yellowstone.

Please be sure to rely on scientific reasoning and studies when considering wildlife killing contests. If given proper peer review with unbiased members, you will see how they are dangerous and don't have ground to be held anywhere.

thank you,
Laura Sneddon



From: [Tim and Michele King](#)
To: [FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcoyote.org](#)
Subject: Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 8:13:58 AM

I am writing as I am outraged at this sick, and inhumane cruel etc.....Wildlife killing contests. That is about as sick, and demented as things can get. This is no way to address population control.nor anything else. To date there is no valid evidence that this has any validity anyway. it is just a way of promoting violence. Something which does not need to be taught to anyone, particularly children, and young adults. Please end this immediately, and permanently. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Michele King



From: [Laurel Hines](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcovote.org
Subject: wildlife killing contest ban issue
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014 10:28:19 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to adopt the ban on wildlife killing contests for numerous reasons.

- 1) As clinical social worker, I know that minimizing suffering of animals, and supporting killing for fun is detrimental to a peaceful society, in that practicing violence in any form, especially toward a living being, can desensitize a person in a way that can contribute to them being more likely to commit violence towards other humans. Killing contests are not valid sporting events and do not encourage reasonable sportsmanship or positive values.
- 2) Indiscriminate killing of coyotes does nothing to reduce problems with livestock. More practical methods can be taught to livestock owners to avoid wildlife conflicts more effectively over the long term.
- 3) Predators are increasingly being determined by valid science to be necessary for a healthy ecosystem, even coyotes.

Laurel Hines



(51)

From: [René Álvarez](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Ban wildlife killing contests
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 1:02:33 PM

Dear Commissioners:

By allowing these contests to take place, you are supporting a violent mindset that is not in the best interest of the United States and the state of California. Those who participate revel in violence that is not limited to hunting grounds.

All progress begins with "annoying" people like my colleagues and me questioning traditions like slavery, Jim Crow, Apartheid, child labor, genital mutilation, and the subjugation of women. Once those traditions have been eliminated or weakened, their place taken by progressive institutions, even those mindsets that resist change and turn a blind eye to suffering and injustice in the name of some ill-defined heritage, imagine that they too would have been on the side of change, but we all know that Sean Hannity types would never have marched with MLK.

History is being written all around you. Will you be on the side of impartial science, or will you join the ranks of the Bull Connors of the world? Don't miss this opportunity to do what is right.

By the way, I am a former US Army Infantry NCO and Winchester Model 94 owner.

Thank you very much for your attention and for any pro-conservation decisions that might be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

René Álvarez




42105 Fiftieth Street West, PO Box 3133, Quartz Hill, CA 93586-0133
(661) 943-9000
www.avconservancy.org avconservancy@yahoo.com

September 15, 2014

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
via email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov

re: **Ban of Wildlife-Killing Contests**

Honorable Members of the California Fish and Game Commission:

The Antelope Valley Conservancy Board of Directors thanks you for this opportunity to submit comments in support of the California Fish and Game Commission's enactment of a statewide ban on wildlife-killing contests.

The Antelope Valley Conservancy preserves natural habitat lands in Kern and Los Angeles Counties, and operates a mitigation program that is authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. We strongly support the ban on wildlife-killing contests because:

1. Wildlife-killing contests are ecologically irresponsible, and serve no beneficial wildlife management purpose. Such contests not only harm individual animals, but also alter predator-prey dynamics, disrupt the social dynamics of predator species, and put non-target wildlife at risk.
2. Wildlife-killing contests are ethically indefensible, as they promote gratuitous violence against wildlife, and send the message to children that life has little value. They are conducted for profit, entertainment, and the "fun" of killing. This is not about sport or fair-chase; animals are often baited and lured with distress calls of wounded young, placing wildlife at an even greater and unfair disadvantage.

The killing of wildlife is appropriately regulated by the State of California, due to the precarious survival of thousands of plant and animal species. The Antelope Valley Conservancy supports a statewide prohibition on wildlife-killing contests.

By Resolution of the Board of Directors
Antelope Valley Conservancy

by B. Harsha, Secretary

cc: Charlton H. Bonham, Director, CDFW at director@wildlife.ca.gov

From: [Kimberly Blaquera](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Please ban the wildlife killing contests
Date: Monday, September 15, 2014 10:09:55 AM

There is no value or sense in killing the wildlife that inhabit our world. I have lived in California my entire life (I'm over 50) and love the wild life here. As an agency that is supposed to represent the animals of our state, it does not make sense that the only way to represent them is to kill them. Somehow the values of your agency have been skewed to killing as a viable form of management. This is not benefit to anyone including the animals.

Wolves, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions and etc. are not commodities for people to make money. They are our heritage and are as important to our state as our agriculture, our parks (state and national), our ocean and everything else that makes California a beautiful state.

A world where everything is "managed" is not a world at all but a robotic, cold environment. The animals have as much right to be here as we do. Killing contests are inhumane and disgusting. As a government agency, you should all be ashamed to even consider this an option.

Sincerely,
Kim Blaquera



54

From: Cherylynn Costner
To: FGC; director@wildlife.ca.gov; info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: No Coyote Killing Contest in California.
Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:13:56 AM

Dear California Fish and Game Commission:

Please ban all wildlife killing contests as it promotes destruction of California's natural ecosystem and violence in our youth at a time in history that school shootings has escalated to elementary schools in this state having military tanks as a means to control the ramped violence that has lost a growing number of children due to gun shot wounds caused by children with guns.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/11/san-diego-school-police-mrap-armored-carrier> .

The State of California knows or should know that the power of advertising and that the use of the word "*Contest*" suggests an award or praise for achievement, in this circumstance, a would be killing of the life of a non-human animal that has not been domesticated and therefore "*wild*." A "*reasonable man*" would conclude such an action of state officials to support and or permit random violence against wildlife, including but not limited to *Canis latrans*, aka coyote, could be motivated primarily by financial incentives. Such a so-called "Killing Contest" would produce prospective profit from the sale of hunting permits and the subverted result of training impressionable children to become insensitive to life so they can have fun with guns which would likely in time enrich the powerful special interests group within the privatized for profit prison system that needs inmates to grow and continue to acquire state and or federal funding.

Another obvious financial motive of breeding killer young people could also be to misuse educational resources to store military equipment without it cost or free of charge in county or city garages. The more violent California school children can become the easier it is to justify the need for our public schools to be storing grounds for high grade military equipment designed for the killing of human beings during times of war. Are we really suppose to believe this expensive "*gifts*" to control school violence will not be "*re-gifted*" the moment the US Army wants them back?

Please think about the liability of the state of California and the millions of dollars the sate tax payers have had to pay out to victims of gun violence caused by police killing un-armed people and how the police would have all the more reason to suspect guns with the state encouraging their use, and coyotes are in every neighborhood, rich and poor. They get around.

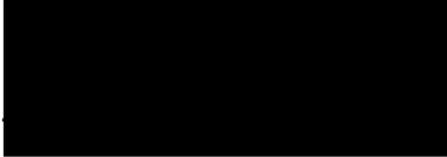
As a Californian I am concerned that a Coyote-Killing-Contest, for example, could result in a gun "*accident*" or even worst "*intentional*" murder of humans by a child or teen that got his or her gun for a "*legal*" killing contest. We have enough problems without breeding more for the short lived thrill and feeling of power a mentally challenged person can acquire from taking the life of another. I also object to promoting activities that have an end result of supporting private prison populations with their revolving door policy that is designed to keep them uneducated and unemployable to return once more into prison to be supported by Tax-payer revenue.

A written response to this letter is requested.

Thank you for your consideration of Banning all sport killing contests against wildlife in the state of California.

Sincerely,

CHERYLYNN COSTNER



From: Carol Eliason
To: FGC
Subject: Please end wildlife killing drive events
Date: Friday, September 15, 2014 12:58:17 PM

Carol J Eliason



Fresno, CA 93711
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

To the California Fish and Game Commission:

I am writing to support an end to all wildlife killing contests, drives, tournaments, derbies, and however so named events in which private individuals are allowed to participate in killing wildlife.

I am not saying there is never a reason to kill wildlife, but it should never be encouraged as entertainment, fun, group sport, as a way to teach gun and hunting skills using live animals, competition, or simply using the public as a form of free labor. If killing is really necessary, the persons should be hired, licensed, knowledgeable, and meet standards set by the FGC.

As we are part of a mass extinction of wildlife on land and sea further complicated by the increasing impact of global warming, we should look at all proposals for the killing of wildlife with skepticism. Any planned killing, if scientifically validated or due to unusual circumstances of genuine threat to the public on the part of a single animal, should be done by a public official in the most humane manner possible. Involvement by private individuals should be strictly forbidden. Killing wildlife, if necessary, should always be regarded as a serious and unfortunate necessity. An attitude of respect and guardianship toward other species and the individuals within those species should be our guiding philosophy.

Our history is replete with unintended consequences when we tamper with wildlife in response to some recent or temporary inconvenience usually created by our interference within their normal habitat. Our effort to manipulate biological systems developed over thousands and millions of years poses real peril to all of us. Wildlife officials, as well as doctors, should be guided by a "First, do no harm" philosophy. Derbies, contests, and drives encourage a dangerous attitude that killing other species involves no serious consequences for ourselves and our ecosystem. Such a thoughtless and careless approach to other species and bio-systems of all kinds puts our own survival at risk.

California is a recognized leader for the nation and hence in much of the world. Let us lead here too and ban these contests. They are an anachronism in our present circumstances. A rational person and a rational wildlife service never considers mere tradition as a sufficient reason alone for doing anything.

Sincerely,

Carol J. Eliason

From: [louis_gauci](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Ban Wildlife-Killing Contests
Date: Sunday, September 21, 2014 11:55:01 AM

Dear Commissioners,

These coyote killing sprees are outrageous and cruel...what has happened to the compassion in humans....there is absolutely no reason these murderous contests should be sanctioned by any state and I implore the Commission do all that is possible to put an end to the killing permanently....this just makes me sick to my stomach...coyotes have a valuable role keeping down the rodents, rabbits and other vermin that eat up crops.

Wildlife-killing contests perpetuate a culture of violence and send the message to children that life has little value and that an entire species of animals is disposable.

You are kindly being urged to make the right decision-- and to set a trend for the rest of the nation, where thousands of wild animals including coyotes, foxes, wolves, bobcats and other species are killed en masse for fun and prizes in such contests, "derbies" and tournaments.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Louis Gauci

57

From: [Robert McCombs](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Enter Your Action Subject
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 4:20:15 PM

Dear President Sutton and Commission Members:

Eliminating "inducements" is a start but how about banning these kill-fests completely?

I support the California Fish and Game Commission's proposal to restrict inducements for hunting contests for non-game fur-bearing mammals. The practice of offering inducements for this arcane practice runs against our sensibilities, as well as the Commission's mandate to protect fish and wildlife resources of the state. I encourage the Commission to adopt the changes proposed in the 45-day notice of rulemaking for ending inducements for these senseless hunting contests.

Sincerely,

Robert McCombs



From: [Peter Martin](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Hunting Contests
Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 5:42:55 PM

Dear President Sutton and Commission Members:

Stop this barbaric and immoral hunting contests.

Sincerely,

Peter Martin

Peter Martin



59

From: MICHELLE OGNJANOVIC
To: EGC
Cc: Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: Ban wildlife killing contests, derbies, tournaments, etc.
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:26:17 PM

Dear Commission,

I urge you to permanently ban senseless wildlife-killing contests statewide and set a trend for the rest of the nation, where thousands of wild animals including coyotes, foxes, wolves, bobcats and other species are killed en masse for fun and prizes in such contests, "derbies" and tournaments! We should reform and modernize wildlife management in California and beyond by moving toward ethical wildlife stewardship.

Thank you,

Michelle Ognjanovic

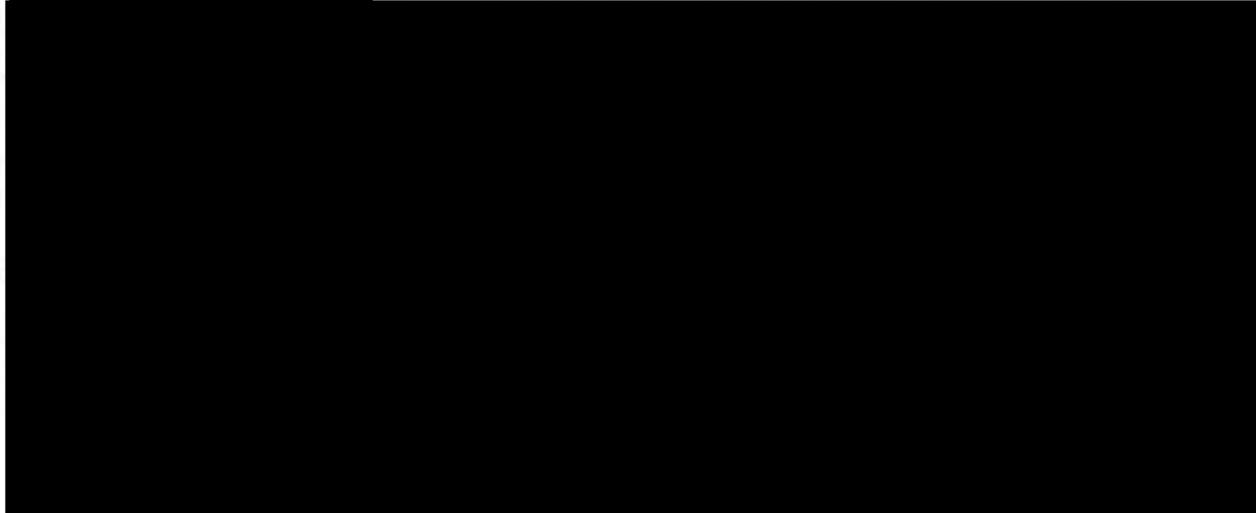
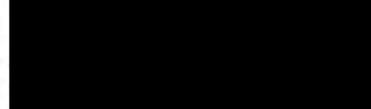

60

From: [Louisa Parks](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: ban wildlife killing contests
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 3:07:46 PM

Please ban wildlife killing contests in California. We are such a progressive state...let's be among the first to recognize the message that this sort of event sends our children.

Thank you.

Dr. Louisa A. Parks



61

From: Dale LaCognata
To: EGC
Cc: Wildlife DIRECTOR
Subject: Killing contests
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:41:21 AM

Please ban these killing contests. Predators are an essential part of our eco-web to keep nature in balance!
Most Respectfully,
Dale LaCognata

62

From: [Beth Levine](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcovote.org](#)
Subject: Ban Wildlife-Killing Contests
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 11:45:27 AM

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

To Whom It Concerns:

Wildlife-killing contests are conducted for profit, entertainment, prizes and, simply, for the "fun" of killing.

This is wrong.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's **character**, give him **power**." - **Abraham Lincoln**

Please ban these wildlife-killing contests.

Sincerely,

Beth Levine



cc: California Department of Fish & Wildlife Director, Charlton H. Bonham; and Project Coyote at as we are tracking letters sent.



63

Joe & Joan Becker



October 2, 2014

California Fish & Game Commission
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA.95814

Re: CA. Fish & Game Commission Meeting Agenda, October 8, 2015
California's Hunting Regulations in 2015 and future.

Dear Commission Chairman and Commission Members:

Our personal schedules do not allow us to attend your North State meeting on October 8th, so we are sending this letter in place of attendance in person. Hopefully you read our thoughts on California's future management of its Wildlife Resources in the letter we sent to you on August 1st this year addressing many of your future management ideas.

Now 3 months later, we would like to renew our request for this states natural resource management by you the Commission Members. *We ask that you not institute any new regulations on predators which will cause an increase to the predator populations causing more problems for our deer and small game populations. Do not eliminate any further dog use in hunting of wildlife. Do not institute additional restrictions on organizations conducting contests of wildlife or fish management programs. And yes we, like all our national shooting sports organizations, have a concern with where the non-lead AB711 law is going to take this states wildlife management and shooting sports recreation future. In addition we have a concern with how your policies of Yellowstone Gray Wolves state protection is going to hurt our native California species in future years, not to mention domestic livestock of California.*

As we will not be in attendance to listen to all the discussions of issues at your meeting, for comment, at this time we would like to state that as supporters of Gaines and Associates through CBH/SAA membership we request, their proposals for this states future wildlife management be adopted by you the Commission.

Thank you for consideration of our requests.
Sincerely and God Bless;

Joe & Joan Becker

cc: Gaines & Assoc.
CBH/SAA

64

From: Erin Hauge
To: FGC
Cc: Wildlife DIRECTOR
Subject: Stop Wildlife Killing Contests in CA
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 8:46:04 AM

October 2, 2014

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Dear Commissioners,

Please ban wildlife killing contests in California.

These killing contests are not an ethical or ecological means of management for the wildlife being hunted, which includes coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, and fox. Even gray wolves, currently protected under the California Endangered Species Act, will be at risk as they expand into their California range.

These killing contests are not about true sportsmanship or fair-chase. Contestants often bait and lure animals with distress calls of wounded young, placing wildlife at a grossly unfair disadvantage.

Contestants include kids, who are being taught that wildlife is expendable and that individual lives don't matter.

Pets, non-target animals, and people are indiscriminately put at risk as accidental targets.

Predators are naturally self-regulating and support healthy prey populations. Wildlife-killing contests wipe out that balance, interrupt complex social structures, and can leave young animals to starve to death.

Wildlife killing contests are completely unnecessary for management purposes, destroy the natural balance of healthy ecosystems and send the dangerous message that our essential predators are not valuable. For these reasons, wildlife killing contests must be banned.

This is not an attack on ethical hunting. This is a call to end the unethical practice of shooting anything contestants can find, not to eat, but for a prize. It's time to end wildlife-killing contests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Erin Hauge
Certified California Naturalist



cc: Charlton H. Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Erin Hauge
Certified California Naturalist
Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Advocate



Walk quietly Coyote, the practical people are coming now.
Thomas Hornsby Ferril

65

From: [Yves Garin](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Ban wildlife-killing contests
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 2:39:21 AM

Ban Wildlife-Killing Contests:

Wildlife-killing contests are ethically indefensible; participants kill wildlife to win prizes. Such contests (also called "tournaments," "derbies," and "drives") are ecologically reckless, not only harming individual animals, but also altering predator-prey dynamics, disrupting the social dynamics of predator species, and increasing threats to public safety. They have no beneficial management purpose but simply promote gratuitous violence against wildlife. Yves Garin

66

From: [REDACTED]
To: EGC
Subject: Wildlife killing contests
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 6:26:02 AM

Please stop these cruel wildlife killings. What are you telling young, impressionable people, that killing animals for fun is acceptable. We should be better people than that.

Arlene Clarke



67

From: [Cindy Young](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Killing contest
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 9:53:15 PM

Stop the killing contest. It is brutal and barbaric.

68

From: [Mitch Miller](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: An OC Citizen's Personal Comments about Wildlife Killing
Date: Sunday, October 05, 2014 8:25:48 PM

Dear Fish and Game:

I work immediately east of the Seal Beach Weapons Depot. At lunch Friday we were delighted to see a young coyote in the ivy on the grounds. He was probably seeking gophers for food and was of no harm to we humans; some that watched with delight, some with fear. But fear should be trumped by reason and education.

I completely agree with Karen, pictured below. Please put a stop to senseless wildlife killing contests. Teach people how to better care for their pets.

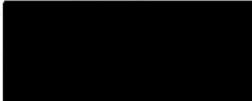
Thank you.
Mitch Miller, [REDACTED]



69

From: [gary](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: killing coyotes increases their numbers!!!
Date: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 9:04:18 PM

females go into heat to replace all those killed.
Its a lose lose
Gary York





From: [Taylor](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: Fw: Please Ban Wildlife Killing Contests (sent to wrong email address)
Date: Thursday, October 09, 2014 10:23:29 AM

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: Taylor
Sent: Oct 7, 2014 11:49 PM
To: fgc@fgc.ca.org
Cc: director@wildlife.ca.gov, info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: Please Ban Wildlife Killing Contests

Dear Members of the Fish & Game Commission,

I'm writing to encourage you to ban wildlife killing contests.

Last year I read a S.F.Chronicle newspaper article about a three-day coyote killing contest in Adin, CA. The event poster and tee-shirt logo featured a ghoulish bone-white coyote skull with blood-red letters dripping "Coyote Drive 7", which, frankly, looked almost exactly like a classic Nazi SS design.

When local citizens' efforts to stop the contest were unsuccessful, I decided to drive 330 miles up to Adin to see what kind of people would hold such an event.

As I was approaching Adin for the 4pm Friday registration, I was greeted by a 20 ft. Confederate flag flying over a double-wide. Since I was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, I vaguely wondered what sort of affinity these coyote killers in California might feel with the old Confederacy.

I'd already seen an online photo showing eight coyote killers with guns, wearing KKK-style masks, proudly posing next to a hanging coyote.

What I found in Adin at the Pit River Rod & Gun Club resembled a paramilitary force: about 100 teams of at least two coyote killers each, dressed in camouflage, fueled by alcohol and other drugs, with high-caliber weapons, night vision, thermal telescopes, amplified calling systems, and hot-rod ATV's that "zip down the trails at 55+".

All this to kill 20 to 40 lb. coyotes in the snow.

The indiscriminate killing methods used in these contests are not about hunting. Allow me to quote a gentleman from New Mexico:

"Hunting is about heritage, respect, and ethically owning our own place as carnivores in the food chain. It is not about senseless mass slaughter or denigrating the worth of any living creature by turning it into a pointless competition for dead bodies.

The kind of idiocy Gunhawk Firearms is promoting with this coyote slaughter contest is a travesty. As a gun owner, I

promise never to set foot in this store again and urge others to take a stand as well. Don't let these morons tarnish our heritage."

Coyote killing has become big business, with lots of suppliers and a few con men cashing in. Several websites that cater to coyote killers state that

they are "proud" of their "coyote killing obsession", and offer graphic DVD's with lots of attitude about how to kill these "rats that look like dogs".

A little online research will yield some very disturbing information and images based on hatred and arrogance.

I'm a 68 year old almost retired contactor and teacher, raised in Virginia in the ole-timey tradition of officer/gentleman. I moved to California 44 years ago, and I have three fine sons born here, the youngest just turned 21 in June. They all know firearms, and they know I would respect them if they were ethical hunters.

But the needless killing and maiming of coyotes and other wildlife for fun or contest qualifies as animal cruelty, and it sends a dangerous message to our children that life has little value.

Please vote to ban these wildlife killing contests.

Respectfully yours,

Richard Taylor

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A smaller black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

71

From: [Ruth I Olafsdottir](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Stop all hunting contests and permits!
Date: Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:13:52 AM

Leave our wildlife to live. They have the right to be here. This is their land.
It is disgusting to hunt for sport or greed. We don't live in the dark ages anymore.
OR DO YOU!!!????


From: [John Oda](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Coyotes
Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 4:51:36 PM

Please end coyote killing contests. Sincerely, john oda, 

From: [Anthony Montapert](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: ban wildlife-killing contests
Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 6:25:53 PM

California Fish and Game Commission,

I favor a ban on wildlife-killing contests .
Wildlife-killing contests perpetuate a culture of violence and send the message to children that life has little value and that an entire species of animals is disposable.

Sincerely,
Anthony Montapert

74

From: [Keli Hendricks](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Cc: [Camilla Fox](#); [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 7:19:44 PM

11/5/14

Dear Commission,

California needs to set an example to the rest of the nation by banning wildlife-killing contests. These contests violate the principals of fair chase and treat our native wildlife as nothing more than living targets.

As a rancher, I find it insulting when these contests are justified by claiming they help protect livestock. Most ranchers I know are fully capable of protecting their livestock without 'help' from killing contests.

These claims are an obvious attempt to make these unethical hunts more palatable to the public. Other common ways this is done is by holding 'memorial' hunts, or offering 'scholarships' in children's divisions.

Thankfully, most of us are disgusted by the concept, regardless how it is packaged, of a contest that awards cash and prizes for killing the most wildlife, only to later dump the carcasses in a pit to be buried.

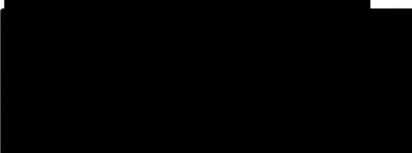
In fact, the vast majority of Californians would likely be shocked to learn that these activities have ever been legal in this state.

Wildlife killing contests are bad for wildlife, they are bad for hunting, they are bad for kids, and they are bad for our state.

Please do the right thing and put an end to killing contests in California.

Thank You,
Keli Hendricks

Keli Hendricks - Advisory Board, Project Coyote
Bar C R Ranch



95

From: [Patsy Lowe](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: coyote killing contests
Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 4:06:52 PM

What kind of people practice wanton death? I guess your kind of people, you won't stop it.
Our society is in tatters. Psychopaths are in charge.

Patsy Lowe

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

76

From: [Jan](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: RE: coyote killing contests
Date: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 7:35:19 PM

It is so wrong to allow killing of coyotes, let alone to do it as a contest!! This must stop! I cannot understand how this in any way, shape or form this can be justified!

Sincerely,

Jan Mulholland



77

From: [Monita Dufort](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Hunting wolves, coyotes or any wildlife
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 8:41:33 AM

As a resident of California, I am asking you to please ban all "contest hunting" of our beautiful wildlife. It is absolutely horrendous that people think it is "Fun" to kill these animals, and are teaching their children that their lives are irrelevant.

I hope you can do your best to stop this and protect life, which is what you are all about, yes?

Thank you,
Monita and George DuFort

From: [Lisa Wade](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcoyote.org](#)
Subject: Please ban Wildlife killing contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 2:10:26 PM

Fish and Game Commission,

Please ban wildlife killing contests as they serve no positive purpose. In fact such killing has negative impacts on the environment and disrupts the balance of nature. Coyotes help to control populations of rodents and rabbits which are associated with diseases such as plague, tularemia, Lyme disease etc. These hunting contests also put pets and other non- target animals at risk. These hunts are cruel and send the wrong message to children that violence towards animals merely for the fun of it is acceptable. Sincerely,

Lisa Wade



From: [Maggie Rufo](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Predator killing contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 2:43:29 PM

Dear Fish & Game Commission,

I was devastated to read about last week's coyote killing contest near Bakersfield. When are we going to evolve and leave the last centuries behind? Science tells us quite clearly that the excuse given for these barbaric contests, the need to control predator populations, is completely bogus. Killing & disrupting the social order of coyotes, or wolves, simply causes more coyotes. Nature has a balance, if we leave her to it, and these contests no nothing but satisfy the blood lust that far to many un-evolved humans have. What's even more disturbing about these events is that children are brought to them. Adults are then traumatizing children and attempting to indoctrinate them into their blood lust and barbaric thinking. How can we let this go on, how can YOU let this go on?

I do not believe that we the people should allow ranchers, farmers, or wineries or any other landowner to depredate predators unless, and until, they have shown that they have implemented every responsible means of protecting their animals and/or their crops. There is much that can be done to protect animals from predators before a trigger is pulled. The onus is on the landowners to protect what is there's by non-lethal means. Lethal should always be the last resort. Always any input from the NRA on the business of California should NOT be considered. You work for the residents of California, both NRA-registered residents and non-NRA residents. Please do not be swayed by an organization that is able to out-mobilize and out-organize the grass-roots groups that speak for we the people of California! This is not an anti-gun issue, this is a compassion and morality issue all the way!

This is not hunting, this is cowardice and blood lust and hatred. Please lead the way and end this barbarism.

Thank you for considering my views.

Maggie Rufo



80

From: Lance Moseley
To: FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcovote.org
Subject: GOVERNMENT THIS IS BULLSHIT one killing our wildlife to making it a contest.. This is not right STOP THIS ASAP!!
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 3:02:40 PM

GOVERNMENT THIS IS [REDACTED] one killing our wildlife to making it a contest.. This is not right STOP THIS ASAP!!



COYOTE KILLING CONTEST CA Adin CoyoteDrive photo dead coyotes



"Killing of 11 coyotes in California infuriates conservationists"

~Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle, 11.6.14 (A-1-front page)

Dear lance,

This past Sunday at least 11 coyotes were killed in a coyote killing contest around Bakersfield, California [as reported on the front page of today's San Francisco Chronicle](#). Loopholes in California law and regulations still allow such barbaric practices to continue.

We are on the brink of banning these contests in California, and we need your help to win this battle! If you haven't already, [please support our Ban Wildlife Killing Contests Campaign](#).



If you live in California, please voice your support today for our petition to ban these killing contests by writing to the California Fish and Game Commission and joining us in Van Nuys on Dec. 3rd for the final vote on this issue. Take action [here](#) and [view my video message](#).



Thank you for taking action for wildlife,

Camilla H. Fox
Founder & Executive Director

P.S. - you can listen to my radio interview on this issue on NPR affiliate 

P.P.S. - Please share this message with friends, family and co-workers and encourage them to join our pack & get involved for wildlife!



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OUR MISSION

Promoting coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science and advocacy.

811

From: [Monique Biglia](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcovote.org](#)
Subject: Predator Killing Contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 3:13:14 PM

Attention: California Fish and Game Commission:

I implore you to prohibit predator killing contests statewide, and develop comprehensive regulations and policies to reform and modernize predator management in California.

It is so disturbing to me for many reasons. These contests are conducted for profit and entertainment, which is downright cruel. These contests have not been shown to correct any issues with animals, and these animals are part of our ecosystem, which affects humans as well. Not to mention how these horrific activities promote violence in an already too violent world, and also put other other animals and humans at risk during the process.

Please do the right thing and put an end to this barbaric practice.

Thank you.

Monique Biglia



82

From: [jack.beren](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcoyote.org](#)
Subject: prohibit predator killing contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 3:48:54 PM

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Director Charlton H. Bonham
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please add my name to the overwhelming majority favoring a ban on predatory killing contests in the state of California. These contests are barbaric and do not represent the will of the people, our civility or our live-and-let live way of life.

Jack Beren



83

From: [DEBORAH](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Ban Predator Contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 3:54:02 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

As a resident of California, I want to see these contests banned. Killing anything and calling it a sport is barbaric enough but encouraging people to commit mass slaughter of a species for fun and profit is morally reprehensible. Predators should be individually targeted for conflicts with the community, not slaughtered indiscriminately. It makes me ashamed to be a native Californian.

Sincerely,
Deborah Wood-Castaneda



84

From: [diane.nygaard](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Re Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 4:03:05 PM

Dear Commissioners

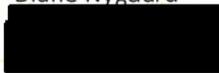
I am sure you know how much we Californians care about our wildlife.

I have spent years working on improving connectivity of the local wildlife corridors that are so critical to maintaining healthy populations of local wildlife.

The idea of wildlife killing "contests" is not consistent with your objectives. Such contests in fact completely ignore the value of wildlife as part of a healthy ecosystem, are in conflict with scientific evidence about the best ways to maintain the right population levels, and encourage behavior that is damaging to wildlife protection.

Such contests no longer make any sense. Please eliminate all such contests in any of the lands you manage.

Diane Nygaard



85

From: [REDACTED]
To: FGC
Subject: coyote contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 6:11:17 PM

Dear Sir,

My community of Calabasas has successfully learned to coexist with the wild populations of coyotes that inhabit our santa monica mountains. I am proud to say we have changed a few of our own habits to no longer unknowingly lure wild animals to our neighborhoods looking for our small pets, or food and garbage thoughtlessly left outside. We coexist with coyotes and they too have learned what is acceptable and what is not acceptable by our own behavior.

It is not acceptable to shoot or trap our wildlife. The advantage is that we get to enjoy living in a safe (no firearms or lethal traps while we hike on surrounding trails) and intact ecosystem where the population of numerous species is self controlled depending on their own natural food and predator sources.

The killing contests of coyotes is a dangerous pastime because it promotes and glorifies violence. It is a disruptor of natural ecosystems and stimulates greater reproductive cycles in the coyote.

Violence for the sheer excitement of killing is not mentally healthy and dangerous for our society, nor is it a human right to destroy property that does not belong specifically to each "contestant". Perhaps going to a shooting range and running through magazines of bullets can accomplish the same thrill without destroying the very wildlife that truly belongs to all of us, each and every one of us.

Thank you for strongly considering banning this disturbing, inhumane, uncivilized, and mentally and physically dangerous contest. It is completely unacceptable.

Sincerely,
Ann Anterasian (private citizen)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us everyday....."

[REDACTED]

86

From: [Teresa H. Norris](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife Hunting Contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 6:33:18 PM

Please ban wildlife hunting contests. Help us all learn to respect the earth and its inhabitants.

Teresa Norris

87

From: [REDACTED]
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: STOP THE WILDLIFE HUNTING CONTESTS
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 6:57:01 PM

PLEASE STOP THIS TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS PRACTICE!!!!

Ron Bottorff

[REDACTED]

88

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife Hunting contests
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 7:36:27 PM

Dear Fish and Wildlife Authorities,

Please stop the senseless killing of our precious wildlife! I can only hope we are smarter than this. I think it's been proven that this is the way to control wildlife populations, and in this day and age, such a relic from the past is just crazy.

Thank you very much,
Lisa A. Landres

[REDACTED]

Life is a shipwreck, but you have to remember to sing in the lifeboat.
--- Voltaire

89

From: [janet.kessler](mailto:janet.kessler@wildlife.ca.gov)
To: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; FGC](mailto:janet.kessler@wildlife.ca.gov)
Subject: PLEASE STOP THE COYOTE KILLING CONTESTS IN CALIFORNIA
Date: Thursday, November 06, 2014 8:40:39 PM

California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Director
Charlton H. Bonham
director@wildlife.ca.gov

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Dear Charlton H. Bonham, Director of California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners Mr. Michael Sutton, Mr. Jack Baylis, Mr. Jim Kellogg,
Mr. Richard B. Rogers, and Mrs. Jacque Hostler-Carmesin,

I am writing you to please put a halt to the coyote killing contests in California, be they killing derbies, competitions, tournaments or roundups. This is a violent and sickening practice which has to be stopped not only in California, but throughout North America.

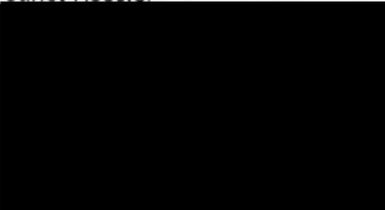
Wholesale slaughter for fun, entertainment, and money, is barbaric and it besmirches us as a society. It is shameful and offensive that the state is permitting a small group of killers to indulge themselves this way. The vast majority of folks are shocked that it is going on, and incredulous that it is even legal and being allowed. The wildlife in the state belongs to all of us -- we must be their stewards and protectors, not their brutal killers. Please STOP THE CONTESTS NOW and put an end to it for all time!

Science has shown that mass killing of coyotes accomplishes absolutely nothing as a "management" tool: when there is wholesale slaughter of this type, coyotes quickly rebound and even increase -- so the bloodbath serves no "management" purpose whatsoever. In addition, all animals have a function in our ecosystem, and coyotes are no exception: they keep rodents and mesopredators in check, helping to maintain a healthy and natural balance in all areas -- nature always balances itself and we should allow it to do so. Beyond their ecology and reproductive biology, coyotes are one of the few species -- 3-5% of all species -- who mate for life and have an intense family life. I think everyone would appreciate them much more if they knew a little bit about them.

I've read that hunting and fishing tags and license fees contribute between 80 and 100 million dollars a year to the department -- about a quarter of the annual budget. Please don't let coyote killing contests as a moneymaker for the department stop you from banning them from our state.

Please put an end to the coyote killing contests -- ban them right now and forever more. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response!

Sincerely,
Janet Kessler



From: [Coyote Coexistence](#)
To: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; FGC](#)
Subject: PLEASE BAN COYOTE KILLING CONTESTS IN CALIFORNIA
Date: Friday, November 07, 2014 5:45:35 AM

Dear Charlton H. Bonham, Director of California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife,

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners Mr. Michael Sutton, Mr. Jack Baylis, Mr. Jim Kellogg, Mr. Richard B. Rogers, and Mrs. Jacque Hostler-Carmesin,

I am writing you to ask that you ban all coyote killing contests now and forever in California. Coyote killing contests are not about protecting elk or deer, not about protecting cattle, not about protecting domestic pets: the coyote killing contests are simply entertainment through bloodlust.

The event serves no legitimate management purpose. Proponents like to say it is needed to keep coyote numbers in check thus getting rid of "nuisance" coyotes, but this is indiscriminate and unscientific. In fact, research shows that the opposite is true: because they are territorial, coyotes regulate their own numbers: Killing coyotes disrupts a stable population on a variety of levels, and this in turn INCREASES the coyote population in an area with repercussions for farmers and ranchers.

1. Although initially their numbers will be reduced in a particular area by killing them, interlopers and loners will soon fill the vacated niches of those that have been killed, by immigrating into the area. In a stable population, the resident older coyotes prevent new coyotes from moving in. These are territorial animals who don't allow intruders into their areas.
2. Whereas in a stable population only family alpha pairs reproduce, once these coyotes have been killed, all other females in the area, which are usually behaviorally sterile, suddenly will begin reproducing.
3. When more females reproduce, there are more pups to be fed, and, and with fewer adults around to feed them (because they've been killed), there is pressure on the remaining adults to turn to larger prey. This pressure doesn't exist when there are more adults and fewer litters.
4. Whereas usually only 1/3 of pups survive their first year of life, with fewer adults to eat up the food, there is more food for youngsters, and more of them end up surviving.
5. In a stable population — i.e. not one subjected to killings — coyotes, who are territorial, know their territories and know where to find the smaller prey they depend on, such as rodents.
6. Coyotes keep rodents in check, and also the diseases they carry such as plague and hantavirus and rabies. In fact, when one farmer in Oklahoma removed all coyotes, the rodents infested and ruined his crops — he now values coyotes as rodent-catchers.
7. In a stable population, coyotes learn from their parents. When parents are killed, coyotes have to learn through trial and error how to coexist with humans.
8. Studies have shown that coyotes are creatures of habit when it comes to the environments they choose to live in and what food they eat: they learn what is "appropriate" food as pups from their parents, and only try new sources when under stress, as when fewer adults need to feed more litters — in other words, killing coyotes FORCES them to try new foods, such as weaker livestock.
9. Killing coyotes forces them to live in a "colonizing" state: for example, in a stable structure, breeding begins usually at 4 years and declines by 6 years of age. Older coyotes maintain their territories, keeping other coyotes out, but they do not reproduce — and since there is no need to feed hungry pups, there is a diminished need for them to turn to livestock as a food source. Killing them lowers the age at which they reproduce to 1 or 2 years of age, extending their reproductive life, and increasing social and spatial flux. Killing them actually puts livestock at a higher risk for predation.
10. Problem coyotes are few and far-between. It is impossible to single these out for removal. But "problems" can be solved in non-lethal ways.

11. "Baiting" coyotes with pieces of meat from livestock actually gives them a taste for farm animals, such as cows, sheep and chickens which they didn't have before. If this food is fed to pups, pups will go for this type of food when they are older.
12. "There is not a single documented instance of a bounty program temporarily or permanently reducing coyote populations or livestock depredation problems." Michael Fries, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Commonwealth of Virginia.

Rampant slaughter of any animal is inhumane, especially to intelligent, socially-connected animals such as coyotes who mate for life, and form and live in family units where both parents raise the young. So, not only is slaughtering ineffective as a management tool, slaughter for a "prize" and for "fun" is immoral and an embarrassment to the intelligence and moral integrity of the community. It is motivated by a disregard for life.

Slaughtering coyotes is environmentally irresponsible at a time when the rest of the world is trying to live in a sustainable manner and not use up or kill off the resources that help to keep the planet balanced.

Ranchers all over the United States are turning to non-lethal predator control methods based on these scientific findings. Highly successful methods of preventing livestock predation include good fencing, night corrals and using llamas, donkeys and guard dogs.

Please see the letter by Robert Crabtree, leading scientist who has studied precisely what we are trying to convey. His letter can be found here:

http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/coyotes_letter_Dr_Crabtree_06-21-12.pdf. Also please visit the CoyoteCoexistence.com website to learn about these Native American predators and how to get along with them. Coexistence is occurring throughout the US and Canada and takes minimum effort, achievable with just a few guidelines.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Kessler for CoyoteCoexistence.Com

91

From: [Shauna Artman](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Stop destroying nature !
Date: Friday, November 07, 2014 7:04:21 AM

I just read an article on the killing contest that just took place with the innocent coyotes. I am disgusted by the selfish, naive indulgence of the people that take place in it. I have a 6 year old and we do everything we can to conserve this planet for her. Our environment and nature is already going through so much stress and misuse by humans that just don't care. Well I do. That is why I am speaking up. Please put an end to this bullying of nature . Please end all wildlife contest. It is up to you to protect our nature and planet from this abuse.

Sincerely,
Shauna Artman



From: [Catherine Keegan](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Wildlife Killing Competitions
Date: Friday, November 07, 2014 8:06:20 AM

To: Director Charlton H. Bonham, California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Commissioners, California Fish & Game Commission

I strongly oppose California's allowance of wildlife killing contests. Such contests offensive in their wanton waste of wildlife and disregard for the important ecological role of coyotes and other predators in maintaining ecosystem health and species diversity.

Bloodsport contests are conducted for profit, entertainment, prizes and, simply, for the "fun" of killing. Such contests degrade the reputation of the ethical sportsman of California and perpetuate a culture of violence, sending a message to children that life has little value and that an entire species of animals is disposable.

I urge you to use your authority to prohibit wildlife killing contests in California and to set the trend for the nation by moving this great state toward more responsible, science-based, and ethical wildlife stewardship. It is time that the Commission and the Department develop comprehensive regulations and policies to reform and modernize predator management in California. These regulations and policies should reflect current science, conservation biology, and the ecological principles of ecosystem-based management as well as proven coexistence practices that are more likely to yield better outcomes for wildlife and people. Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation (AB 2402), which requires the agency to use "ecosystem based management" and the best science in its stewardship of California's wildlife. It makes good sense to start at the top —with the apex predators upon whose viability our entire ecosystem depends.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Catherine Keegan

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93

From: [Lee Schmid](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Wildlife killing contest
Date: Friday, November 07, 2014 12:56:59 PM

I am shocked, appalled, and disgusted that wildlife-killing contests are allowed in the state of California. These magnificent animals need to be protected, not persecuted. Please, put an end to these sick and twisted, one-sided "contests". I live in Ohio but please know that my vacation dollars will not be spent where these killings are permitted. Thank you.

Lee Schmid



94

From: [Jane White](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife killing contents in California
Date: Saturday, November 08, 2014 3:52:53 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please stop these so-called wildlife killing contents.

It is barbaric, backward and ruins California's reputation.

kind regards
Joanne White

95

From: [christina eliason](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife Hunting Contests
Date: Saturday, November 08, 2014 10:46:07 AM

Dear California Fish and Game Commission:

California is a state with exceptional beauty and diversity. Our environment is threatened by man-made and natural causes daily; our native species of plants, aquatic life and animals have dwindled and even, in some cases, face extinction. Our state has historically led the charge against wildlife destruction; the origin of Earth Day, celebrated around the globe, began here, as did the California Coastal Commission to protect our precious shores. The California Fish and Game Commission has the opportunity to lead the way and be on the right side of history by banning Wildlife hunting in all forms in the state -- on private and public lands. Led shot is also a problem which poisons our species along the food chain, reaching carrion birds like Condors who struggle to survive. Our wildlife needs greater protection, not hunting contests to see who can kill the most animals! Even one animal killed for the sport of a hunter is too much. Who does this senseless killing benefit? The ego of some hunter? When compared to the welfare of our ecosystem and our precious resources, which provide natural and economic benefit to the state, the "fun" had by a few hunters should not be tolerated. Please put an end to all forms of legal killing and hunting of wildlife now for the sake of all those with a conscience and our future generations.

Sincerely,
Christina Eliason



96

From: [Patricia Meyer](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife Killing Contests in California
Date: Saturday, November 08, 2014 4:10:41 PM

Please ban the wildlife killing contests taking place in California.

This is a barbaric practice and one that must be stopped.

Thank you.
Pat Meyer



97

From: [Kay Bushnell](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); info@projectcovote.org
Subject: ban wildlife killing contests
Date: Sunday, November 09, 2014 8:49:47 AM

Dear Members of California Fish and Game Commission:

It is time to ban wildlife killing contests in California. I was shocked to hear that these archaic, barbaric events are still being held in our state. Senseless violence against wild creatures is an embarrassment to every Californian. Such events promote senseless violence against coyotes and other animals. They have no place in a civilized society.

There are a great many sound reasons why coyote killing contests and other wildlife contests are abhorrent to most people. The bottom line is that they are cruel, unsporting, ecologically disastrous, and violent.

The FGC has the opportunity to do what is obviously the right thing. Please ban wildlife killing contests immediately. Californians will thank you!

Kay Bushnell



98

From: [Erica Stanojevic](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife Hunting Contests
Date: Monday, November 10, 2014 9:01:49 AM

Please ban these Wildlife Hunting contests. Hunting non-game species is a terrible way to treat our wildlife. So much wildlife is in peril from so many things - development, pollution, and so on - that we must strive to protect all wildlife in whatever ways we can before more species go extinct.

Shanti,
Erica Stanojevic
California resident

99

From: [Kaitlin Drury](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcovote.org](#)
Subject: stop wildlife killing contests comment
Date: Monday, November 10, 2014 9:03:01 PM

I strongly urge your organization to stop wildlife killing contests. There are better, science-based ways to manage wildlife predator populations.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Y. Drury



--

"I'm here to love and be loved" Gurutej Kaur Khalsa

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." -
Mahatma Gandhi

100

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Wildlife Hunting Contests
Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 1:46:29 PM

To the members of the California Fish and Game Commission:

I understand that at your meeting on December 3, 2014, you will be considering whether or not to ban Wildlife Hunting Contests.

I am horrified to learn that we still allow such a barbaric practice. Our wildlife are an integral strand in the fabric of our ecosystem. To allow the wanton slaughter of animals in a competitive contest is so disgusting and cowardly. It must not be allowed to continue in our enlightened state of California!

I urge you to ban these contests immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Norene M. Charnofsky

[REDACTED]

101

From: [Sharon Ponsford](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); [Project Coyote](#)
Subject: Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 2:19:09 PM

Dear California Fish & Game Commission:

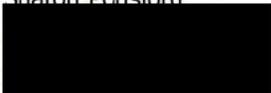
Working for a wildlife rescue organization for over a decade has given me an amazing opportunity to learn about our native wildlife. I consider it a privilege to work with them. To say that it hurts me to think that anyone wants to hunt them is an understatement.

My husband and I have lived off and on in France for the past fifteen years. I was hugely disappointed to discover that, other than the wild boar, they have almost no wildlife left in France, including birds. They have killed everything. We are so fortunate to live in California where we have such a great diversity of wildlife. I never take it for granted.

California is a conservation oriented state, so I could not believe it when I heard that Coyote Killing Contests, as well as other Wildlife Killing Contests, exist here. Have we reached a new low?? Killing a beautiful wild animal so that one can win some sort of prize, is, to me, about as low as you can go.

There is nothing sporting or ethical about wildlife killing contests. These people need to be educated about the benefits of wildlife. This kind of violence against our wildlife should be against the law. Please ban them. I hope California will lead the way on this issue.

Thank you very much for what you do.

Sharon Ponsford


102

From: [Samuel Young](#)
To: [FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcovote.org](#)
Subject: Stop killing wildlife.
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014 6:07:34 PM

My name is Samuel Harrison Young, and I agree with Marco that it is wrong to hold wildlife killing contests. It is not only unnecessary, but it is completely avoidable and morally reprehensible. Please stop immediately.

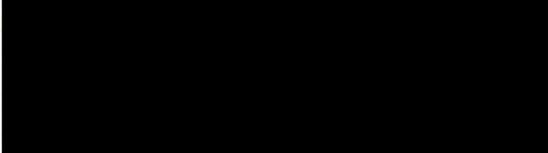
103

From: [Katherine Malchiodi](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcovote.org](#)
Subject: Killing contests
Date: Friday, November 14, 2014 10:40:12 PM

Wildlife-killing contests are conducted for profit, entertainment, prizes and, simply, for the "fun" of killing. This is not about sport or fair-chase; animals are often baited and lured with distress calls of wounded young, placing wildlife at an even greater and unfair disadvantage.

Please do let this madness continue.

Katherine & P.J. Malchiodi



104

From: [Jane White](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; info@projectcoyote.org](#)
Subject: wildlife killing contests
Date: Sunday, November 16, 2014 3:02:42 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please stop the "wildlife killing contests" in California.

It is extremely barbaric, immature, ineffective and quite honestly gives a terrible impression of your State and even tars residents with the same brush that are not involved. Neither is it in-fitting with conservation or the fact that the world needs its predators for the eco-system to function.

kind regards
Joanne White

105

From: [Eustaquio Christine Helen](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: info@projectcoyote.org
Subject: Ban coyote/wolf fights & competitions
Date: Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:20:46 PM

Dear Sir,

I am distressed that wildlife killing is allowed in the USA. Not only is it cruel, it puts all wildlife in jeopardy. Keeping a healthy population of predators is good for the health of ecosystem and will benefit everyone in the community.

It is also going to deprive future generations of their right to see these creatures. Do not be part of the mass extinction that these contests will lead to.

I appeal to you to please stop this barbaric contests; they have no part in decent society and only promotes animal cruelty.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Christine Eustaquio

106

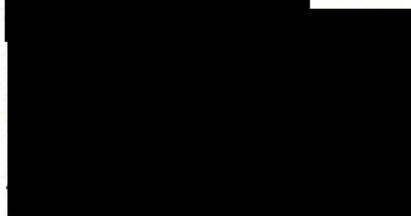
RECEIVED AT

AUG 06 2014

COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 10

Don Jamroz

Don Jamroz



CA Fish & Game Commissioners:
Michael Sutton, Jack Baylis,
Jim Kellogg, Richard Rogers,
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

Re: Inducements for Hunting Contests
Agenda Item 10 A&B

Dear Commissioners:

Utah offers a \$50 bounty for the taking of coyotes. AZ has a coyote-calling contest called 'The Antelope Eaters' that is held annually. There the Fish & Game game wardens are a part of this event as well as a F&G biologist. Prizes are given. In 2014, there were 280 sportsmen that attended this event.

<http://www.mohavesportsmanclub.com/AntelopeEaters.html>

Nevada encourages coyote hunting by not requiring a hunting license.

Californians are out of step with our neighbors regarding predator control.

Contests are a very, very small part of the sport of coyote calling. Yet it would seem to me that in California the commissioners are trying to suppress this sport. Something to think about.

Sincerely,

Don Jamroz

107

RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME
COMMISSION

2014 NOV 17 AM 7:18

MCS

Don Jamroz



November 9, 2014

Wildlife Resources Commission
Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
1416 Ninth St. Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Elimination of Hunting Contests
Outdoor Life Article

Dear Mr. Mastrup:

Would you please that the commissioners get a copy of the enclosed page. See the paragraph about CA in the October issue of Outdoor Life on page 36.

Any actions you take to suppression hunters from taking predators will lead to fewer deer. Whether suppression be by contests, fees or limits, the deer population will suffer.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Jamroz".

Don Jamroz

Enclosure

PA

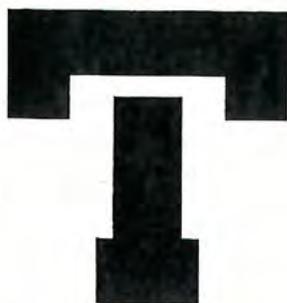
**PENNSY
MONARCH**

This 5½-year-old northwest Pennsylvania buck was taken during 2011's early gun season.



2012 DEER FORECAST

STATE-BY-STATE OUTLOOKS AND TRENDS, THE TOP TROPHY ZONES IN EACH REGION, AND RUT DATES WHERE YOU HUNT **BY BRIAN McCOMBIE**



he opening day of deer season connects our diverse nation of hunters like few other events. And this fall, as in most years, hunting will be excellent in some areas—thanks to a mild winter and good forage production this summer—and slow at best elsewhere, due to disease and a historic drought. But whether you spend the season sitting in a treestand at the head of an oak draw, glassing hillsides for deep-forked muleys until you go cross-eyed, or just parked on a favorite stump on state land, we've got you covered.



Mr. Donald J. Jamroz

ALABAMA
Population: 1.8 million and stable.
Food/Moisture Outlook: After a dry spring, mid-summer rains had deer forage on the rebound.
2012 Rut Peak:* Early to mid-January.

Side Note: Hunters last year saw considerably fewer deer, and many thought the herd was in decline. The culprit, however, was a major crop of acorns that concentrated deer away from food plots.

ALASKA
Population: 50,000-plus across the Kodiak/Afognak archipelago; no estimate for

Prince William Sound. At least half of the Sitka blacktails in the Prince William area perished last winter. Blacktails were hit hard on the northern half of Kodiak Island as well as the west side of Afognak.

Food/Moisture Outlook: Deer forage is good in both locales.
2012 Rut Peak: First full week of November.

ARIZONA
Population: 85,000 Coues whitetails and 110,000 mule deer. Coues are up about 10 percent over the last decade, thanks to fewer tags and healthy herds. Mule deer continue to decline.

Food/Moisture Outlook: Not a lot of food, though any late-summer rain could help considerably.
2012 Rut Peak: Second full week of November.

ARKANSAS
Population: 1 million; stable to rising. Last year's harvest was the second largest since 1938.
Food/Moisture Outlook: Several months of drought left deer forage drying up by midsummer. Fawns hit the ground just as the drought was gaining momentum, leading to fears that recruitment may be off this year.

2012 Rut Peak: Northwestern Arkansas

around November 7-10; southeastern areas the first week of December; the rest of the state right around Thanksgiving.
Side Note: Along with the drought, ticks were a major issue for deer this spring and summer.

CALIFORNIA
Population: 445,000 mule deer and blacktails; stable to slowly declining due to less habitat and an increase of predators.

Food/Moisture Outlook: Record snowpack pulled much of the state out of drought. Spring forage was good but dried up as summer progressed.

2012 Rut Peak: Last week of November into early December.

COLORADO
Population: 418,000; Western Slope mule

THE NORTHEAST PLENTY OF FOOD FOR GROWING HERDS

A VERY MILD WINTER (which followed a generally mild winter in 2010-2011) and average-or-better amounts of spring and summer rain this year have the Northeast region looking good this fall. States like Vermont and Maine are expecting improved harvests, as the easy winters have allowed deer herds to rebound. Except for a small pocket of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Hampshire County, West Virginia, and a limited outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in west-central New Jersey, deer here have no real health issues.

While there are still many good-size deer in the Northeast, trophy antler production has eased away from here and moved into the Midwest region. The Boone and Crockett Club's "Trophy Whitetail Production, 2005 to 2010," for

example, doesn't list a single Northeastern state in the top 10. Pennsylvania, at number 20 (with 26 entries), is the highest-ranked state from this region.

That said, Northern states still grow big-bodied deer. "During the 2011 season, we had 124 bucks registered that, on the hoof, would have tipped the scales at more than 250 pounds," says Vermont deer biologist Adam Murkowski.

TOP TROPHY ZONES** **NY:** Monroe, Wayne, and Suffolk counties. Comprising the eastern two-thirds of Long Island, Suffolk County produces approximately half the state's Pope and Young records—including a 2006 buck that netted 196 7/8 non-typical. **NJ:** Hunterdon, Monmouth, and Salem counties. **PA:** Alleghany, Chester, Washington, and Beaver counties. **WV:** McDowell and Wyoming counties.

*Rut Peaks are based on interviews with state deer biologists. **Top Trophy Zones are based on interviews with state deer biologists and cross-referenced with state agency, Pope and Young, and Boone and Crockett Club record books.

108

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Agenda #5 Killing of Wildlife Still in California
Date: Monday, November 17, 2014 8:20:33 AM

I am totally against the Legal Wildlife Hunting that still goes on in California. This should be banned in all areas of California and no animal should suffer the horrible deaths that these hunters are allowed to shoot.

When hiking over the Thousand Oaks Mountains on Santa Monica Open Space we still hear the guns being fired on Saturday and Sundays, what happens when a stray bullet hits someone who is out hiking with family and friends?

Usually cell phones don't work in those areas and the hunters are long gone, knowing they did a illegal act.
This is wrong I am a advocate of the Environment and Animals and this should be banned from any further discussion.

Please submit this e mail as a NO for Legal Wildlife Hunting.
Thank You
Nancy Mauthe

109

From: [REDACTED]
To: FGC
Cc: Wildlife DIRECTOR
Subject: prohibit "killing contests"
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 7:40:48 AM

Dear FGC,

I believe in environmental responsibility. That doesn't preclude hunting, per se. Marksmanship is a sport. Tracking is sport. Both can inspire respect for nature.

But killing contests are...overkill.

INDUCEMENTS to kill non-game animals?? Abominable. We don't live in the 19th century. Anyone who understand and respects California's magnificent ecology would oppose incentives for the aimless slaughter of these species.

I support and encourage the Commission in regulating these unfortunate incentives.

Sincerely,
Chelsea B. W.

[REDACTED]

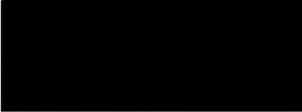
110

From: [Chris Jones](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR; Project Coyote](#)
Subject: Wildlife Killing Contests - Opposed
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 8:48:27 PM

Dear California Fish & Game Commission:

I speak for the more than 98% of Californians who do not hunt. While hunting for food may be understandable, the wanton destruction of non-edible species in a "killing contest" is indefensible. These animals are simply living their lives in what little natural area remains in our state; the least we can do for them is leave them in peace. Please consider these precious animals, and the majority of our citizens who have no idea that such a thing as a "killing contest" even exists.

Sincerely,
Chris Jones





From: [Beth Katte](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contests in CA
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 1:00:48 PM

Dear California Fish and Game Commission:

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless bloodsport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I respect the Commissioners for being stewards of our land, and making sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies in our beautiful state! Thank you.

Kind regards,

Beth C. Katte


112

From: [William Porter](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Hunting Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 2:53:32 PM

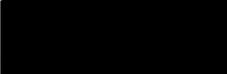
To: The Honorable Sonke Mastrup

As a biologist and hunter, I am in favor of banning all coyote-killing contests, indeed, most if not all coyote-killing, period.

The hunting of predators like coyotes is wrong on principle. The popular predator control excuses have more to do with an outmoded mindset from the agricultural/animal husbandry bias of centuries past than they have to do with science. Modern science supports robust predator populations, and the futility and wrong-headedness of mass government-run killing programs and unrestricted killing of coyotes by the citizenry. There is a place for hunting (of deer and the like), mainly for management of populations, which, ironically enough, are burgeoning out of control in some areas due to predator suppression.

Please, do what you can to ban these contests; not to do so sends the wrong message, one of a feudal disregard of life in the landscape.

Regards,

William Porter


From: [Cathleen Griffin](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Predator Killing Derbies
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 4:20:11 PM

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California. Killing contests are abhorrent. They're environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence that permeates our society.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies. Thank you.

Cathleen Griffin



114

From: [Sonia Valdivia](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contests in CA
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:02:15 PM

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

Killing contests are environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence. What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless bloodsport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies.

Thank you.

Sonia Valdivia



115

From: [Cathy](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:16:00 PM

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to coyote killing contests. Coyotes are an important part of the California ecosystem and should be allowed to live in peace. Maybe they are not particularly attractive and are considered a nuisance by some, but that does not make them inherently "bad". They have their place as a predator in the food chain, and I think that should be respected. Whether an animal gets to live or not should not depend on its cuteness or usefulness to humans. In my opinion, there is no justification for cruelty to animals in the name of sport or entertainment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cathy Morton

116

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: sign from China - stop killing wolves
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:21:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

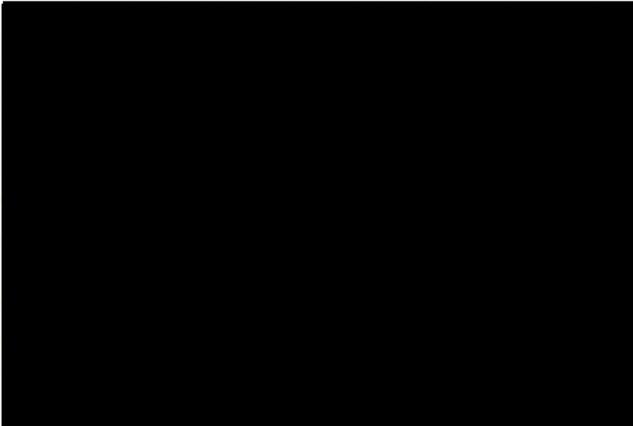
Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

Killing contests are environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence. What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless blood sport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgments that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies. Thank you.

I sign from China. We don't have Wolf Protection Charities, our wild lives are leading much more miserable lives. I hope America won't be so in future, so I can see them one day I visit your country. God bless you.

Thanks the Wolf Conservation Centre.



117

From: [Michele Chandler](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Michele Chandler](#)
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contests in CA
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:27:36 PM

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

Killing contests are environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence. What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless bloodsport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies.

Thank you.
Michele Chandler

Wild to Life

118

From: [Margaret Stephens](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests ---Sections 465 and 472 title 14, or Item 5, Dec. 3 FGC
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:52:29 PM

I am writing to respectfully request that California ban all wildlife hunting "contests" --- including coyotes --- as these "contests" are inhumane and support a culture of violence and disrespect for life.

1/9

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 6:18:41 PM

November 19, 2014

RE: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests
Sections 465 and 472 title 14
Item 5, Dec. 3 FGC

To Whom It May Concern:

Killing animals for sport or entertainment needs to be completely abolished.

Please stop this horrible contest and any contest that rewards the death of our beautiful wild creatures.

Rosanne Bentley
[REDACTED]

120

From: [Niki Conrad](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contest in CA
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 7:08:29 PM

I am writing today to express my opposition to the predator killing contest in California. I was born and raised here in California in the sierra foothills and have had many encounters with our wildlife which I have felt thrilled to be able to see in their natural habitats. I was shocked and disgusted to find out that California has killing contest also known as predator derbies. I was shocked that these contests are right here in the area I love and often find enjoyment in seeing the wildlife. I am appalled that California would allow these types of contests to take place we rank high in punishment for animal cruelty for domestic pets so why is it okay for us to terrorize and cruelly kill our wildlife for what..fun and prizes? This isn't ethical hunting nor is it moral to treat our wildlife like this. Coexisting is key for both wildlife and humans. To kill just for the fun of it is disgusting. This is not hunting for food this is pure cruelty. I am opposing these contests in the state I call home. I support a ban on kill contests also known as predator derbies. Thank you for your time.

Signed, Niki Conrad



121

From: [diane huffine](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 7:22:00 PM

Prohibit inducements on hunting contests of coyotes and other helpless animals.
Thank you.

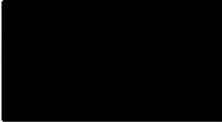
122

From: [Cody Dolnick](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Item 5, Dec. 3 FGC.
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:43:39 PM

Please prohibit inducements for wild animal killing contests! These contests are disgusting displays of human supremacy and a cultural artifact from the dark days of this continent's colonization by Europeans. They have no place in today's world.

Sincerely,

Cody Dolnick



123

From: [Roberta Frederick](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 8:44:01 PM

Honorable Commissioner Executive Director Sonke Mastrup,

I am writing to ask that California Fish and Game Commission prohibit inducements on hunting contests. Predator killing derbies are irresponsible and unnecessary. This type of violence against wildlife in our state needs to be stopped. I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies

Sincerely,

Roberta Frederick


124

From: [Christina Platou](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:38:14 PM



125

From: collinhouse@netzero.com
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Stop the Predator-Killing Contests in California
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 5:35:57 AM

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please put an end to the predator-killing contests in California. Promoting a culture of violence by encouraging such blood "sport" does nothing to create a stable, responsible society. There are far better ways to manage wildlife other than using them as target practice. The elements of the natural world belong to us all, not simply those who see them as a glorified video game.

In the name of posterity, please make a stand and stop the slaughter.

Sincerely,
Deborah Collin

126

From: [Judith A. Mitchell](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contests in CA
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 10:04:41 AM

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

For reasons having to do with woefully insufficient education regarding the place of predators within the natural and desirable balance of nature, there is a class of people who erroneously hold all predators to be "vermin." Nothing could be farther from the scientific truth. Predators have evolved over millions of years, from the need to fill their rightful and necessary niche in Nature; it is, in fact, we humans who are the species that are way out of step with our biosphere.

I believe that you are fully aware of these facts. I hope that you are not in a position of having to appease the aforementioned people – those lacking even rudimentary knowledge of how Nature best works, and those who find the slaughter of innocent animals "entertaining." That in itself ought to be a warning signal. To put guns and ignorance together in the hands of inhumane people is a very dangerous proposition.

Killing contests are environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence. What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless blood-sport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgments that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies. Thank you.

Judith Mitchell





Keeping Northwest California wild since 1977

Sent via e-mail to: fgc@fgc.ca.gov on date shown below

November 20, 2014

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
Attn: Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director

Re: Rulemaking regarding Prohibition of Prizes for Take of Furbearers and Nongame Mammals—Support

Dear Fish and Game Commission:

The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) supports the adoption of the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposed rulemaking to prohibit the distribution of prizes for the take of fur-bearing and nongame mammals. EPIC and the signatories to the attached petition strongly urge the Commission to adopt this proposed regulation.

Adoption of this rulemaking is important to clarify the intent of Fish and Game Code sections 465 and 472. Adoption of this rulemaking is also consistent with the Commission's obligation to protect, enhance, restore, and conserve native wildlife.

EPIC and the signatories to the attached petition therefore urge the Commission to adopt the proposed rulemaking to prohibit prizes for the take of nongame and fur-bearing mammals. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the number provided below as necessary if there are questions.

Sincerely,

Rob DiPerna
California Forest and Wildlife Advocate
Environmental Protection Information Center
145 G Street, Suite A
Arcata, California 95521
Office: (707) 822-7711
Email: rob@wildcalifornia.org

Environmental Protection Information Center
145 G Street Suite A Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 822-7711
www.wildcalifornia.org

From: [Donna Thomas](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Comments: Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 12:53:13 PM

Honorable Commissioner Executive Director Sonke Mastrup,

Following are my comments on Prohibit Inducements on Hunting Contests, Sections 465 and 472 title 14, Item 5, Dec. 3 FGC

I request that regulations be put in place that prohibit all coyote hunting contests.

Living as I do in the Morongo Basin near Joshua Tree National Park, I see that bobcats play a valuable role in ecosystem balance and in our tourism economy. Bobcats show up at my house and they are magnificent creatures that add so much to my quality of life and to the biodiversity around me and wherever they exist. A live bobcat is much more valuable to human society than a dead one in that it brings us in touch with the natural world and sustains us spiritually. Taking the life of a coyote, either for the mere monetary value of its pelt or for the mere temporary rush the hunter experiences, in no way compares to this existential benefit for our society.

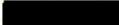
Respectfully,

Donna Thomas



129

From: [Michele Jankelow](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Predator Derby
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 12:50:35 AM



12:09am Nov 20

URGENT: Friends, please help us end predator killing contests in California once and for all! Deadline to comment Thursday, Nov. 20th! Info below.
Howls of thanks!

~~~~~

Email: [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov)  
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contests in CA  
Body: Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

Killing contests are environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence. What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless bloodsport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies.  
Thank you.

~~~~~



WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU CONDONE AND ENDORSE SUCH ABJECT SAVAGERY

130

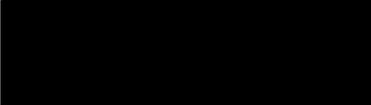
From: [Miriam Seger](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Dec. 3, Item 5, Inducements
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 4:38:05 PM

Dear Honorable Commissioner Mastrup,

Thank you so much for taking a close look at the killing contests. I understand the enjoyment of hunting, and hunting as a way of life: my father took me out for chukar and pheasant as a teen in Oregon. It was on a hunting trip that he taught me to drive. He wanted to show how a person could be knowledgeable and self-reliant, understand firearms and safety, and know the pleasure of cooking game using a campfire. I learned the hunter's code of giving away a shot, rules for yielding on dirt roads, and the generous bounty of nature. These are valuable life lessons, and I would not give up the memories for anything. I do not patently judge those who take animals with a gun.

But these killing contests are simply bloodlust. I'm frightened of a person who would repeatedly blast an animal full of bullets and dump its body in the ground, and furthermore consider this a value to pass on to children. This promotes a hatred and disregard for living things other than ourselves. It celebrates using firearms for revenge and domination. To take away this activity would not be to "take away a way of life" that involves guns. There are absolutely no upsides to this cultish behavior. Putting an end to this practice would stop something that most people in the state of California think of as barbaric, and anyone who feels differently should read the blogs in which the coyote killings are described with glee, with photos of animals riddled with bullets.

It's a tricky matter to legislate morality. As a society we institutionalize ethics, and we rely on the wisdom of our governing bodies to differentiate between wrongful behavior and allowable personal choice. Take for example polygamy. A very few people would say that in consensual cases, this should be allowed. But our society at large agrees that this is not acceptable, so this behavior is not legal. This ethos should apply to the killing contests, inducements or not.

Miriam Seger


From: [monte_merrick](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Prohibiting Inducements for non game mammal and fur bearing hunting contests
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2014 4:53:31 PM
Attachments: [Letter to FGC killing contests.pdf](#)

Dear Sonke Mastrup,

Thank you for accepting these comments! Having attended a few public meetings of the FGC, I see how difficult and multi-faceted your tasks are... Thanks for taking them on!

Earlier this year, I sent the Commission a letter from California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators stating our organization's opposition to coyote killing contests. That letter (attached below) still expresses our opposition adequately and is re-submitted. I would like to add these few comments though, due to the changes we've seen since this letter was written.

First, with the recent listing of Gray Wolves, California is leading the nation in many ways on bringing honor and integrity to our modern world's relationship with predators. We have come a long way since federal agents were paid to eradicate wolves. I am proud to live in a state that is willing to show the way for the rest of the west and the nation.

Of course, as we see currently, there is still great work to be done. With the recent coyote contest near Bakersfield, and the predator hunt in Idaho, rejection of bloodsport as a rightful part of the traditions of hunting is still to be achieved. Coming from a family steeped in hunting traditions, I am well aware that most hunters are ethical and respectful of the animals they hunt as well as the greater environment. It makes perfect sense to protect what feeds you, as most hunters do.

When I shared the online petition related to coyote killing contests started by Project Coyote with my family members who love getting their buck and catching their limit in trout, many were astonished. One cousin, on the same day he posted photographs of himself with the turkey he'd recently shot, said, "that's not hunting, that's extermination." Whether or not coyotes are actually threatened with extermination by these contests isn't the point of course, the point is that these contests appear barbaric and unethical even to those who are willing and able to kill the animals they are going to eat. Of course hunting is enjoyable, a way of life, and a sport - in all of these it still requires ethics and decency. I and the organizations I represent, CCWR and Bird Ally X, whole-heartedly support adopting regulations to prohibit inducements for these hunting contests.

Thank you for considering these comments,

+++++

monte merrick
bird ally x/humboldt wildlife care center
california council of wildlife rehabilitators
ccwr advocacy committee



in alliance with wild animals and the people who care for them



California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators
www.ccwr.org

31 March 2014

California Fish and Game Commission
Michael Sutton, President,
Richard B. Rogers, vice-President
Jim Kellogg, Jack Baylis, Jacque Hostler-Carmesin

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for engaging in the hard work of bringing the will of Californians as expressed in Assembly Bill 2402 to bear on the California Fish and Game Code.

The California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators (CCWR) fully supports the advances being made in our state's relationship with, and regard for, our wild neighbors. The change in Californians' appreciation for wildlife, wild lands, and wild systems over the decades is very encouraging. As advocates for our patients - injured and orphaned wild animals - CCWR also supports the Commission's commitment to employ ecosystem-based management and use credible science in decisions regarding the wildlife with whom we share our beautiful state.

Coyote killing contests are one example of an activity that serves no scientific purpose. They are contrary to the best available science regarding coyote management. We stand with Project Coyote, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife and others in calling for an end to these contests. We recommend that you give serious consideration to the credible, peer-reviewed science these groups have presented that demonstrates the need for a management plan for coyotes and all predators that takes a rational, effective approach which promotes co-existence. Natural systems depend on this advance, as do individual animals who are orphaned by the careless disregard for life exemplified in these killing contests.

Non-lethal methods of coyote control (e.g. guard dogs, lambing sheds, predator lights, etc.) have been shown to be more effective at protecting livestock. Eradication efforts and lethal measures to control coyote populations have been shown repeatedly over decades to fail. Poisons, leg-hold traps, guns, explosives, fire and flood have all been used in gruesome and barbaric attempts to extirpate this animal, iconic and revered in North America for millenia. Adaptable and resilient, coyotes' population has exploded. As Wyoming folk-wisdom has it, "kill one coyote, two appear."

Lethal means have been known to be cruel and productive of the opposite of their intended results for nearly as long as they've been employed. Still, there are virtually no limitations placed on coyote killing in California. Coyote hunting has rightfully earned a reputation as an irrational blood sport.

There is no legal, scientific or moral justification for killing contests. What constitutes a proper relationship with the natural world is poorly represented in such a contest. The posture of respect that is the hallmark of a true hunter is absent. Now that the spotlight is shining on these gruesome contests we urge the Commission to ban them. To not do so now would be to sanction wanton, senseless killing and set California back in its commitment to science and good stewardship.

CCWR members work hard on behalf of our state's wild animals, supported almost solely by our communities. Our patients are almost exclusively victims of our modern world. Our neighbors largely share our concerns, as do thousands and thousands of others, from all walks of life - it's commonly perceived that wildlife killing contests are repugnant and must, in the face of true understanding and scientific knowledge, be seen as outdated, outmoded and an out and out travesty.

Coyotes and all wild animals deserve respect. As wildlife care providers, it is our duty and our mission to work to modify those aspects of our lives that cause unnecessary injury and are unnecessarily cruel. Co-existence is the only humane future, especially since so much has been lost through negligence, cruelty and inaction. The eras of wild animal killing contests are past. That previous generations have decimated or extinguished so many other populations - bison of the great plains, eskimo curlews, passenger pigeons - in similarly wanton displays is a shame and disgrace yet to be lived down.

The natural world needs people who are compassionate, who are kind, who prefer life over cruelty. Killing contests foster none of these qualities.

We urge you to carry through and help California lead the way into a more rational, civil and humane world. Please end these wanton wastes of real lives. Ban killing contests.

Thank you again for taking up this issue and for the hard work that each of you do.

Respectfully,

CCWR

Resources and Literature

Fox, C.H. (2006) *Coyotes and Humans: Can We Coexist?* Animal Protection Institute, Sacramento, California

on the success of non-lethal management that promotes co-existence:

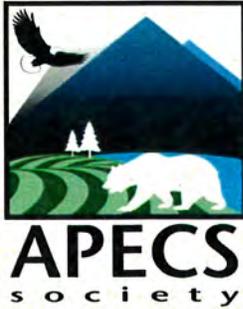
Fox, C.H. (2008) *Analysis of The Marin County Strategic Plan for Protection of Livestock & Wildlife: An Alternative to Traditional Predator Control*. Master's thesis. Prescott College, Prescott, AZ. 112 p.

on the importance of keystone predators such as coyote in an ecosystem:

Henke, S.E., and Bryant, F.C. (1999) Effects of coyote removal on the faunal community in Western Texas, *Journal of Wildlife Management* 63, 1066–1081.

on the failure of indiscriminate coyote killing to protect livestock:

Berger, K.M. (2006) *Carnivore-Livestock Conflicts: Affects of Subsidized Predator Control and Economic Correlates on the Sheep Industry*. *Conservation Biology* 20:751-761.



November 20, 2014

Mike Sutton, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1419 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on Agenda Items #2, #5, #6, #14, #15, #32

Dear President Sutton,

APECS is writing to express our position on the below agenda items. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your fellow Commissioners on these important wildlife issues. Please see below for our comments.

Items of Interest:

➤ **Agenda Item #2**

APECS supports deer tag reporting. We also support and appreciate the department's thoughtful implementation plan though we continue to have serious concerns with AB 711, its effects on hunters, conservation programs, and if suitable and readily available alternative ammunition will be manufactured by 2019. We look forward to working with the Commission and the DFW to maintain predator management for public safety, agricultural interests, and wildlife conservation programs.

➤ **Agenda Item #5**

We'd like to see this issue moved into the department's overall predator management plan that is currently being developed.

➤ **Agenda Item #6**

APECS does not believe a listing is the best course of action, and hopes the commission will encourage and direct the interested stakeholder groups to continue working together to find solutions and avoid the need for a future listing.

➤ **Agenda Item #14**

Our preferred preference would be to use the established property boundaries of the closed areas as specified in the legislation, and to require that the trappers use GPS.

➤ **Agenda Item #15**

Noted in #2.

➤ **Agenda Item #32**

APECS appreciates the Commission's desire to clarify the possession limit regulations as it relates to processed game for consumption. We also believe that the Commission should not limit the discussion to game mammals and birds. Rather, the discussion should include all lawfully taken fish, mammals, and birds.

Best Afield,

Rick Bulloch

Cc Members of the California Fish and Game Commission
Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director

“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value”
—Theodore Roosevelt

From: [leewaysf](#)
To: [FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)
Subject: Ban wildlife killing contests in California!
Date: Monday, October 06, 2014 1:18:27 PM



1. Wildlife killing contests are conducted for profit, entertainment, prizes and, simply, for the "fun" of killing. This is not about sport or fair-chase; animals are often baited and lured with distress calls of wounded young, placing wildlife at an even greater and unfair disadvantage.
2. No evidence exists showing that indiscriminate killing contests control problem animals or serve any beneficial management function.
3. Predators provide ecosystem services that benefit people, including controlling rodents and rabbits which are associated with diseases such as plague, hantavirus, tularemia and Lyme disease.
4. Wildlife killing contests are violent and perpetuate a culture of violence. They send the message to children that life has little value and that an entire species of animals is disposable.
5. Wildlife killing contests put non-target wildlife, our companion animals, and people at risk. Gray wolves, now protected under the California Endangered Species Act, are also at risk as they recolonize their historic range. - See more at: http://www.projectcoyote.org/action/choose2BAN_KarensMessage2.html#sthash.0MJfzKre.dpuf

Regards,

lee Rudin



Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not. Dr. Seuss "**The Lorax**"



Please consider the environment before printing this email. Thank you.



From: [Amber Shelton](#)
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Enter Your Action Subject
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 5:06:14 PM

Dear President Sutton and Commission Members:

I support the California Fish and Game Commission's proposal to restrict inducements for hunting contests for non-game fur-bearing mammals. The practice of offering inducements for this arcane practice runs against our sensibilities, as well as the Commission's mandate to protect fish and wildlife resources of the state. I encourage the Commission to adopt the changes proposed in the 45-day notice of rule-making for ending inducements for these senseless hunting contests.

Sincerely,

Amber Shelton


From: [Kathy Gregg](#)
To: [Wildlife DIRECTOR](#); [FGC](#)
Subject: Stop Wildlife Killing Contests
Date: Friday, November 07, 2014 9:52:50 AM

November 7, 2014

To:
Director Charlton H. Bonham
California Department of Fish & Wildlife Commissioners
California Fish & Game Commission
director@wildlife.ca.gov
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

I strongly oppose California's allowance of wildlife killing contests. Such contests offensive in their wanton waste of wildlife and disregard for the important ecological role of coyotes and other predators in maintaining ecosystem health and species diversity.

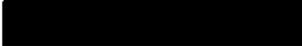
Cruelty to animals, also called animal abuse or animal neglect, is the human infliction of suffering or harm upon non-human animals, for purposes other than self-defense or survival.

Bloodsport contests are conducted for profit, entertainment, prizes and, simply, for the "fun" of killing. Such contests degrade the reputation of the ethical sportsman of California and perpetuate a culture of violence, sending a message to children that life has little value and that an entire species of animals is disposable.

I urge you to use your authority to prohibit wildlife killing contests in California and to set the trend for the nation by moving this great state toward more responsible, science-based, and ethical wildlife stewardship. It is time that the Commission and the Department develop comprehensive regulations and policies to reform and modernize predator management in California. These regulations and policies should reflect current science, conservation biology, and the ecological principles of ecosystem-based management as well as proven coexistence practices that are more likely to yield better outcomes for wildlife and people. Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation (AB 2402), which requires the agency to use "ecosystem based management" and the best science in its stewardship of California's wildlife. It makes good sense to start at the top —with the apex predators upon whose viability our entire ecosystem depends.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

K.R. Gregg


From: [Michele Chandler](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Michele Chandler](#)
Subject: Prohibit predator killing contests in CA
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 5:27:36 PM

Dear California Fish and Game Commissioners,

Please PROHIBIT predator killing derbies in the state of California.

Killing contests are environmentally irresponsible and promote a culture of violence. What are we teaching our children when we engage in reckless bloodsport activities such as wildlife killing contests? It's certainly not an image most Californians want to project to the rest of the world.

I urge the Commissioners to make sound, scientific judgements that are best for the state of California. I urge you to prohibit wildlife killing derbies.

Thank you.
Michele Chandler

Wild to Life