

From: _____
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: _____
Subject: meeting on recommendations presented by predator sub-committee
Date: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 7:28:59 AM

Hello My name is Eric Dicke .I have been informed about a meeting the Fish and game is having on January 15th 2014 at Van Nuys ca. My concern is regarding policy changes to coyotes.I am unable to attend the meeting in person but would like to voice my expert opinion on coyotes for you to consider. My background interaction with coyotes comes from 3 generations of ranching in Sonoma county. Mostly sheep, and a few cattle. Up until 1979 we had never seen coyotes in Sonoma county , a few lion ,but mostly wild hogs and eagles depredated the annual lamb crop. After 1979 the coyotes appeared ,and were mostly held in check with steel traps and cynaide guns. the steel traps were very useful as they were target specific. When those tools were lost due to mis-information,and public pressure the coyote population was allowed to grow in what mis informed biologists feel is a" natural "setting. Little do they realize that there are no predators to keep the coyote population in check.(lack of Red Wolves on the Plains) The species thrives on any type of food available ,can travel many many miles to search out food. I have personally found coyote dens that have had many fawn skulls littered about. One case i have documented had 23 fawn skulls in it. Today, that particular ranch has no deer left on it. The Blacktail deer herd was decimated in that particular area, as it is in all of Sonoma county.

Today coyotes are seen in every part of Sonoma county,urban and rural. I have located and observed several dens in the city limits that do quite well surviving on domestic cats, fruits ,berry etc.. all the young coyotes survived creating a large family unit. This is quite a contrast to 1978 when i saw my first coyote in Sonoma county.

The U C extension Hopland Field Station has done many many years of research to the coyote/depredation situation. I beg you to defer to this very detailed work they have done. The data that they have compiled took years to gather and should not be overlooked.

In conclusion to my letter I would like not to see any additional changes to the trappers regs at this time as they are really only a small tool we have left in the bag. I know i can speak that trappers do the best job possible to not catch non-target species, target only the specific coyote that is predating. Any changes would hamper that effectiveness. I do feel that Project Coyote has a bias in there recommendations, and are not understanding the species. I have personally observed over a thousand coyotes and have documented all my observations.

Thank you, Eric H. Dicke

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2014/jan/011514wrcagd.pdf>