

Establishing a Seasonal Hunt of the Coyote in Wisconsin

The hunting season for coyote is open year-round. A hunting season is established for other fur-bearing animals (fox, raccoons and bobcats). A science-based hunting season set by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources considers preservation of a species during denning of cubs and pups and the raising of young.

Species	Daily Bag	Area	2019 (except as noted)	
			Opens	Closes
Raccoons—Residents	Unlimited	Statewide	Oct. 19	Feb. 15, 2020
Fox—Red & Gray	Unlimited	Statewide	Oct. 19	Feb. 15, 2020
Coyote	Unlimited	Statewide	Year-round open hunting season	

DNR PUB-WM-153-2020

State management plans of Wisconsin wildlife follow the tenets of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, namely, that any animal harvested is used in some way (e.g., meat, pelt). The fur pelt is at highest value during the seasonal hunt established by the Department. The coyote's fur pelt is of lesser value during the warm season and when the family structure is intact. **A small game license is required for hunting fur bearers. Existing state laws allowing property owners to hunt or remove nuisance wildlife, including the coyote, from their property without a license (S. 29.337(1)) will not change.**

Be it Resolved, that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress adopt a hunting season of the coyote which falls in line with the red fox and resident raccoon hunting season, and ending on the Saturday before March 15.

Curt Hubatch
 W3266 County Hwy E
 Springbrook, WI 54875
 Washburn County
 715-766-2032

The importance of carnivores in the ecosystem

In defense of the presence of carnivores DNR's Large Carnivore Specialist Scott Walter stated at a public forum in February 2020 that wolves and coyotes are an important species that don't destroy deer herds. In fact, these predators are integral to healthy ecosystems. In the last 5 years DNR surveys show a dramatic increase in deer population. The attitude of some hunters is to rid the landscape of predators such as wolves and coyotes, stating they take deer, reducing the numbers for the hunt. In reality, large numbers of grazing deer create ecological damage to forest understory and farm fields. Coyotes keep deer moving, decreasing damage from deer spending too much time eating in one place. Yes, they will take fawns and other small mammals including a farmer's unprotected chickens, lambs and calves during lambing and calving seasons. State law gives the farmer a choice to use lethal and nonlethal tools to remove predators from his/her property without requiring a permit. Mother Nature has her hand in this predator behavior. Scientists, including Prof. Scott Craven, teach tolerance: don't punish animals for their natural behaviors.

The coyote keeps in check medium-size predators (skunks, foxes, and raccoons) that prey on ground nesting birds and their eggs (including ducks, grouse, geese, sandhill cranes), another ecological benefit to local ecosystems.

The urban coyote likes the smaller prey animals; in addition, the coyote's diet can save the homeowner money offering a free service