

Citizen Resolution # 561022

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Give Coyotes Protections from Year- Round Open Season Hunting

Coyotes provide several positive ecological services that contribute to clean and healthy rural and urban communities, including forests, grasslands and agriculture, where they are present: Their primary diet is rodents that transmit diseases, including Lyme, LCM and hantavirus (Watts, 2014). Keeping rodents and prey animals in check also protects against crop loss. As scavengers, coyotes help keep local ecosystems clean of carrion. As the top carnivore they limit the number of egg-eating mesopredators (skunks, fox, possum, raccoons) of ground-nesting birds (Mezquida, 2006), such as the state-threatened prairie chicken. By exclusion competition, the presence of coyotes increases the numbers and diversity of songbirds (Crooks and Soule, 1999). Coyotes begin mating in February, forming a long-lasting, often monogamous relationship. Pups are born in April/May. The adult pair are devoted parents, both hunting and bringing food to the den and raising them until Fall (Green, 1994). A science-based hunting season considers protections of a species during denning of cubs and pups and the raising of young. The DNR has established hunting seasons for some furbearing animals (fox, raccoons, bobcats). The season for coyotes is open year-round, with day and night hunting, with NO protections. Breeding females and pups in the den can be hunted. Furbearing Animal Hunting Seasons (excerpted from DNR-PUB-WM-153-2022): Raccoons-Residents: Oct. 16 - Feb. 15; Raccoons-Nonresidents: Oct. 30- Feb. 15; Fox - Red and Gray: Oct. 16- Feb. 15; Coyote: Year-round open hunting season S.29.337(1) WILL NOT CHANGE allowing property owners to hunt or remove nuisance wildlife, without a license.

Do you want the DNR to establish a hunting season for the coyote which falls in line with the fox and resident raccoon hunting season? If you agree with this change, it will be illegal to hunt adult coyotes who have nursing pups.

Additional Information provided by author:

Sources: DNR-PUB-WM-153-2022. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.