



Sen Bentz

From: Sen Bentz
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Cliff Bentz
Subject: FW: Coyote Population in Oregon
Attachments: HB 2182 Predator Plan Overview Briefing FINAL.pdf
Importance: High

From: Shannon Hurn <shannon.m.hurn@state.or.us>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:40 PM
To: Sen Bentz <Sen.CliffBentz@oregonlegislature.gov>
Cc: BROMAN Derek J <Derek.J.Broman@state.or.us>; Mary Anne Cooper <maryannecooper@oregonfb.org>
Subject: Coyote Population in Oregon

Hello Senator Bentz,

I know your office and others have been trying to understand the management of coyotes in Oregon, and how their population is determined. Previously, Derek our Furbearer-Carnivore Coordinator submitted some information we have on numbers from Wildlife Control Operators, Wildlife Services and Furbearer reporting. I just wanted to take a moment to round out the picture on what information we have and how there is no population estimate available for coyote populations in Oregon.

Coyotes are managed under ORS 610.005 along with other predatory animals as defined in statute by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. As a native species the Department of Fish and Wildlife are obligated to ensure they persist under ORS 496.012. The Department of Fish and Wildlife does not collect data on coyotes that would allow for us to develop a robust population model. Available to us is the data we require from reporting by Furbearer operators hunting and trapping in Oregon, as well as the reporting requirements for from Wildlife Control Operators and Wildlife Services. Harvest of coyotes requires a hunting license, and there is no reporting requirement. There is also no requirement for a landowner to report take under ODA's predatory animal statute.

There is no coyote study in Oregon that we can find other than the Starkey carnivore study which collared coyotes. Given that limited data is available to do a comprehensive population modeling effort, rough population numbers bantered about come from density estimates extrapolated across the state. Derek confirmed that the Department has not published a number. Coyotes are habitat generalist - so density extrapolation really doesn't work. We know there are a lot of coyotes in all 8 ecoregions (excludes nearshore) in Oregon and 300,000 is a conservative estimate that has been stated in general about population size. The compiled information on Furbearers states coyote density estimates range from 1-5 coyotes/mi². However, the Urban Carnivore book shows densities in some states as high as 8 and 15 coyotes/mi². A lot of assumptions being overlooked here, but if assume 3 coyotes/mi² and Oregon is nearly 100,000mi², then that puts us at 300,000 coyotes in Oregon.

Another good summary of management and overall abundance comes from the Departments work related to HB 2812 (2015);

Coyotes

The Oregon Legislature has defined coyotes as a predatory animal with regulatory authority falling under the Oregon Department of Agriculture, (ORS 610). Coyotes can be lethally removed by a landowner, resident, or the landowner's agent without any license or permit on land they own or legally occupy. USDA Wildlife Services has an active predator

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management program in participating Oregon counties. Partial funding for USDA Wildlife Services is provided by the Oregon Legislature through Oregon Department of Agriculture and ODFW. Predator removals are focused on responding to or preventing livestock losses. In some cases Wildlife Services has also conducted coyote removal under the direction of ODFW on public and private lands in order to increase fawn recruitment for deer or antelope as part of maintaining herd health. Currently actions to remove coyotes are being taken as part of the Mule Deer Initiative in Eastern Oregon. While coyote trapping and hunting by furtakers occurs statewide, it usually is focused in eastern Oregon during winter months when coyotes are found around wintering concentrations of mule deer and antelope.

I attached the full report just in case you wanted to see where the excerpt came from.

Thank you,

Shannon

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From the desk of Senator Bentz