

Dear Oregon,

I am strongly against contest hunts for many reasons. They should immediately be abolished like a growing number of states are currently doing. First, and to be clear, I am in great favor of carnivore management changes/reform nationwide. I have spent the past 20 years studying eastern coyotes/coyowolves, despite intense political opposition, and have produced over 40 professional publications related to carnivores.

One thing is obvious from my work: There is overwhelming peer-reviewed evidence that the citizens of all political stripes support more protections of carnivores including shortening hunting seasons, establishing bag limits per hunter, eliminating night hunting, and eliminating unfair chase methods such as baiting. Most of these metrics were supported by a 4:1 majority in a recent study. Importantly, that paper mentions that Compassionate Conservation ought to be a consideration in wildlife management over the old and archaic maximum sustained yield model whereby state agencies support the maximum exploitation of ecologically important animals. Please see:

[Jackman, J. L., and J. G. Way. 2018. Once I found out: Awareness of and attitudes toward coyote hunting policies in Massachusetts. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 23\(2\): 187-195. DOI: 10.1080/10871209.2017.1397824.](https://doi.org/10.1080/10871209.2017.1397824)

While I recognize that these changes aren't forthcoming this year, I ask the Commission and/or Legislator to consider greater protections for the next hunting season (especially bag limits and a shortened season) or there will continue to be public outcry to current management practices even with hunting contests soon to be banned hopefully thru this initiative – a ban I totally support. I also suggest and support a provision for “wanton waste” so it is officially made illegal to just kill an animal to kill it.

I have co-written North America's first “Carnivore Conservation Act” that suggests some changes that could be made in carnivore management. I think it is vital for wildlife agencies to expand their base from catering to hunters who are a small percentage of the population to the broader public who is very interested in wildlife and mostly disapproves of trophy/sport hunting. The USFWS reports that exponentially more people watch wildlife than participate in hunting, and wildlife watching contributes exponentially more money to the economy than hunting does (see USFWS statistics for 2011 and 2016). Carnivore hunters comprise a tiny minority of the general population and it is not a democracy when decisions are made to cater to a clear minority viewpoint. Please feel free to use this as a guide for reform efforts:

[Kane, L., and J.G. Way. 2014. Carnivore Conservation Act of Massachusetts. Revised version June 2014 \(original version July 2013\). 21 pages. URL: <http://www.EasternCoyoteResearch.com/downloads/MACarnivoreConservationActJune2014.pdf>.](http://www.EasternCoyoteResearch.com/downloads/MACarnivoreConservationActJune2014.pdf)

So, in summary, **I greatly support the proposal to ban coyote/furbearer/carnivore hunting contests and at the very least suggest establishing a wanton waste law.** Kudos to Oregon for listening to the public to adopt these changes. However, I also have 2 additional

suggestions for this round of regulation changes that are relatively minor and don't affect hunting opportunities but could greatly help with PR to a largely non-hunting public.

I would be glad to meet in person and/or discuss any of these suggestions outlined above at any point in the immediate future. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

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Please visit my websites: (1) Eastern Coyote/Coywolf Research (<http://www.easterncoyoteresearch.com/>) where you can purchase my books [*Suburban Howls*](#) and [*My Yellowstone Experience*](#), read [peer-reviewed Publications](#), and support creating a [wildlife watching refuge in the town of Barnstable](#); and (2) [My Yellowstone Experience](#) which details my experiences viewing the spectacular hydrothermal features, scenery, and wildlife within Yellowstone National Park.