

Oregon hosts wildlife killing contests where hundreds of innocent animals are killed for rewards and prizes. For instance, just a few weeks ago, two-hundred and seventy-two coyotes were mass murdered for rewards in the annual Harney County Coyote Classic. The purpose of these contests is to kill as many animals as possible for rewards. This is not ethical, and it teaches young people that killing is fun and okay. The lives of these animals and their fear need to be taken into consideration. The participants use devices that mimic the sounds of pups in distress to lure the animals into a death trap. These contests are heartbreaking and deadly for these wild animals. Washington, California, and five other states have already prohibited these contests and it is time for Oregon to do the same. These contests violate our states duty to protect wildlife and nature, and our humane values. Science does not support these contests, and neither should we as moral human beings. Mass killing these animals does not reduce the population nor does it protect pets and other animals. It can cause an increase in population because the species will feel the need to reproduce quickly. It all comes down to a matter of morality. Please support this bill to prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon. This bill is a matter of ethics for Oregon's wildlife.