

Research has over and over proven that coyote killing contests such as the Young Farmers and Ranchers Coyote Hunting Tournament in Burns and the Annual Lake County Coyote Calling Derby in Lakeview do not reduce coyote populations, protect livestock, or increase numbers of deer or other game species.

Science tells us that random, indiscriminate, mass killing disrupts coyote family structures causing reactive overbreeding, immigration, and inappropriate predation as well as other unwanted effects.

These events DO send a terrible message to Oregonians, particularly our youth, that hunting is about killing for fun and prizes. Oregon's traditions of sportsmanlike hunting and respect for nature have never supported these practices. Killing contests give ethical hunters everywhere a bad name.

It's time to make this cruel and gruesome practice illegal in Oregon as it already is in Washington and California. Let's teach our kids respect for nature and for science.