

February 08, 2021

## House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Subject: Opposition to HB 2728

Dear Committee,

### **I am urging a NO vote on HB2728.**

As a rural Oregon resident from the Sheridan area, I find it appalling, but not surprising, that once again Rural Oregonians wellbeing, livelihood and way of life are under attack in what seems to be a continuous and relentless assault.

I am a lifelong resident of Oregon. Our family owns a 300 acre farm and ranch. The coyote problem had become so bad that neighboring farmers, including the one leasing our tillable fields, began carrying rifles on the tractors and combines.

When sheep are run on the fields, low to ground electric fences are useless in keeping the coyotes out of the sheep. They just dig underneath them.

I, along with a relative and a friend were aggressively hunting coyotes on our farm to reduce this problem. As a result of our efforts, we had more deer and could see more fawns in the spring. The barn cats worked to keep the mice and other vermin down around the barn and the farm house and all of the out buildings. We could begin to see covey's of quail beginning to return to the fence rows. I even saw a pair of pheasants along the fence line of the lower horse pastures. Pheasants, once in abundance, had disappeared almost overnight.

Then I had some health problems and I was unable to hunt and keep the pressure up. Within a couple of short years it became rare to see a covey of quail, haven't seen a pheasant in 5 years now, the barn cats have been decimated, and the one or two remaining cats for the most part stay on the back porch of the farm house, rarely venturing back to the barn or out of the yard.

Where I normally saw 7 to 10 deer almost nightly, I still rarely see any. I had trail cameras out for 2 months and got pictures of 1 deer. I got enough pictures of coyotes to open a gallery. In past years when we were hunting coyotes regularly, I'd get pictures of many deer nightly. I haven't seen a covey of quail in a very long time.

I've been in the horse barn when the coyote packs have been howling and carrying on less than a hundred yards away in the dark. We had them spooking the horses in the corral and we actually had a horse die when he was spooked by and / or chased by coyotes and he ran into the side of the barn, breaking his neck. We have lost a horse, finding the horse lying up against the side of the barn and a broken neck as verified by the vet. We found plenty of coyote tracks that gave us a clear picture of what had happened as the horse was spooked and chased around the corral.

Have you ever seen sheep with their bellies ripped open and intestines strung out 15 or 20 feet? I have. I have found 3 fawns ripped apart by coyotes. I've seen a number of coyotes chasing the sheep and taking them down in what appeared to be nothing more than adults teaching the pups to hunt. They certainly weren't killing for food. I've been waist deep in the creek trying to help get a number of the neighbor's sheep unstuck from the mud or floundering from water logged wool after they chased into the creek to get away from the coyotes that were chasing them.

Imagine this, a yew in full wool, water logged and stuck in the mud in the creek. You reach down and grab her head to try and keep her nose above water until they can get a rope sling on her to pull her out, because you can't budge her. As you grab her head and pull it upward, a big bubble of blood surges up from an unseen wound below the water line. We saved the yew and when we got her out of the water we found wounds to her legs and a big patch of wool pulled off at the base of her neck. "Skinned Alive" is a term that comes to mind.

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<https://www.hcn.org/issues/119/3792>

"Scientists studied more than 30 factors that might account for low survival rates," he said. "The only thing that correlates with low pronghorn survival is high coyote numbers."

<https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/More-antelope-fawns-surviving-1091958.php>

## “More antelope fawns surviving

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published 10:00 pm PDT, Tuesday, July 23, 2002

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- After years of decimation by coyotes, fawn survival rates on the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in south-central Oregon are steadily recovering. A healthy 53 antelope fawns per 100 does at the refuge survived this year. That's not as good as last year's record total of 66, but it is well above the number needed to maintain the refuge's pronghorn population.

"I'm very pleased," said Mike Nunn, project leader for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which is headquartered in Lakeview. "It's rewarding to see fawns out there. The public has an expectation to see antelope when they come to the refuge, and that includes fawns." Nunn said aerial surveys counted 965 does and 514 fawns. When combined with males, the number of pronghorns was set at 1,905."

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There is absolutely no reason for banning these coyote hunts and it does nothing more than provide a slippery slope to additional regulations. Coyotes are NOT game animals. They are predatory varmints that multiply like rabbits. There is no closed season on them.

This bill highlights one of the cultural divides between urban and rural Oregonians. While urban dwellers may think coyotes are cute, rural residents who see their lambs, calves, sheep and cattle torn apart don't share that view.

You, the Oregon Legislature, have set up a department called, strangely enough, "Oregon Department of Fish and Wild Life". Stay out of their business and let the Sportsmen, ODFW and their biologists determine what is best in regards to this.

ODFW would have put a season and a limit on the number of coyotes and banned the competitions if there was a problem that existed outside the city limits. Here is a link to these folks for anyone who may not be familiar with them or the hunting rules and regulations...<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/>

We all know that if the US Humane Society, PETA or other groups like them had their way, there would be no hunting at all.

Jim Mischel, Life Long Resident,  
Sheridan, Oregon  
Yamhill and Polk County

**Use caution in the following pages. Images can be graphic, especially for city / suburban / urban folks. Ranchers and Farmers see it all the time.**

**The pictures depict damage to wildlife, domestic house pets and farm animals.**

**Graphic Images are on the following pages.  
Do not view them if you can't handle  
coyote damage.**

**Page intentionally blank.....Graphic images  
to follow**













5/30/09 9:43 PM

Cuddle back





/2010 9:24 PM





6/06/2009 2:26 AM

*Cuddeback*











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**Coyote  
Attack**

