

I am rural resident of Oregon, and own and raise cattle. These contests and competitions are a great tool to help maintain the coyote population. From my personal observations and experiences they are not detrimental to coyote population, and in the fact are the exact opposite and help maintain a healthy population. There currently is an overpopulation of coyotes where I live, with an overabundance of skinny and unhealthy packs that I see on a weekly basis. These packs of coyotes are a problem to our cattle herd throughout the year, however during calving season they become extremely problematic. During last spring we lost 6 calves to coyotes, which not only is very sickening and disheartening to experience these deaths that are often very brutal, but becomes a financial burden to our livelihood. Besides the 6 we lost, we witnessed two coyotes attack and try to kill one calf while feeding and were not even afraid of us. Luckily we were finally able to save this particular calf, however it had several wounds. When these contests and competitions take place and are done on a regular basis (for example before calving season) the coyotes tend to be more afraid of people and less aggressive so that more calves could potentially be saved. Coyote contests and competitions are used as a predator control tool and in the end benefit both the coyote population as well as helping us try to keep our livestock safe. The coyote is a very intelligent species and these contests and competitions will not endanger the species, but will aide in making sure that there is a healthy balance between the predators and the livestock numbers. I do not feel that the government should regulate how these contests and competitions are conducted. We as private citizens and taxpayers are capable of making the decisions that is best for our own communities and do not require state regulation on this matter.