

## SB 199 as it Pertains to the Management of Coyotes

I would like to express my opposition to SB 199. We have a ranching operation in Eastern Oregon, near the town of Lone. This is an area of wheat farms and grasslands; The area has had considerable development of wind farms, which has tended to alter wildlife migration routes and concentrate them on Willow Creek. With that said, there is a very sizeable population of coyotes and with that, we experience a larger than normal losses due to coyote predation, typically losing 3 to 4 animals per year, mostly calves. We calve about 100 cows per year in an area of less than 20 acres close to my home and my hired man's home, so there is almost always someone nearby monitoring during calving season.

Our largest problem occurs at night when visibility is limited. We have coyotes coming in in packs, the largest I have seen had 6 coyotes in it. They will often bay the cow and others in the pack will kill the calf. This is particularly problematic when a cow has twins and she is unable to protect both calves during an attack. We have also had cows that have had their vulvas chewed out while in the act of calving, making them a non-breeder in the future if they don't bleed to death. In the last calendar year, we have removed 36 coyotes from our 20 acre calving area during the calving season, and we still have an significant coyote population on this ranch.



This is a photo of a twin calf that was killed by 2 coyotes. I was able to save the second calf after shooting one of the coyotes.

We are a registered angus ranch and our seedstock cattle are much more valuable than commercial herds for beef production. The average value of our animals is from \$3,000 to as high as \$12,000 each, so the losses add up very quickly and can be devastating to our profitability.

I oppose SB 199, on the basis that I do not want to see control of predators turned over to the Division of Wildlife. The current program where the Department of Agriculture controls the management of predators, including aerial gunning where necessary, allows producers to rapidly respond to prevent losses to our livestock. If the management program were to morph into a situation where the constraints on the DOW were similar to wolf or beaver management where there would be delays in removing coyotes, we would extremely hampered in preventing damage to our herds. In that regard, there would be a need for compensation for those damages.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you consider leaving the management of coyotes to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

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