

From: scott francis [mailto:persdoughboy@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Subject: Coyotes in Vermont

As a tourist to Vermont I am deeply upset with the State of Vermont's policy of your states open policy on the hunting of Coyotes. This policy of claiming to be of benefit to the public and that using terms such as "utilization", "harvesting", "renewable resources" is misdirection of a policy of hatred towards these creatures.

This policy stains people's images of your state and detract from the desire of people such as myself in visiting.

Theodore Roosevelt

"It is also vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species of mammal or bird. Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping-grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds and mammals — not to speak of vulgarizing charming landscapes with hideous advertisements...."

Scott Francis.

Colorado Springs, Co.

From: Kevin Lawrence [mailto:fwboard.orange@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Porter, Louis
Cc: Klad InVermont; Christy Ketchel; Fish & Wildlife Board; Dave Sharpe; Christopher Bray; Claire Ayer; Fred Baser
Subject: Re: Coyote Thrill-Kill season

Thanks for your comments, sir. I also appreciate your tone and civility in this exchange. It's refreshing.

All hunting is regulated, and thus the concern woven into the story of someone potentially shooting from the roadway is a violation worth pursuing. It's an interesting story, but we all would be happier to have violators arrested if they are breaking regulations.

I note that the highly publicized coyote hunt in Bristol last year accounted for four coyotes taken, despite the VPR coverage and hand-wringing by folks aghast at the impact on a 14-county state of 6 million acres. If population stability is the desire, coyote hunting does not interrupt population dynamics to the point where niches go unfilled. Every August our coyotes are at maximum population density. Most coyotes that die do so from winter starvation and attacks from other coyotes as they defend their territories as the rule.

Humans and coyotes in Vermont keep a healthy distance apart as long as hunting continues. I have hiked or ridden horses in California, Arizona and South Dakota parks where the coyotes got

way too close to my family. Maintaining hunting seasons keeps the coyote wild. Although a newcomer, it certainly appears healthy populations of coyotes will be on the landscape in the Northeast for many years to come.

Kevin Lawrence, Board Chair

On Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 2:33 PM, Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov> wrote:

Mr. Bechtel,

Shooting from the public road is a violation of the law, one we prosecute vigorously. Please ask that the person in your story contact their local warden to inform them of the details, or they can send me an email with their name and phone number and I will ask that a warden follow up on the case.

The level of coyote and fox hunting in Vermont has little impact on the populations of these species, and therefore little impact, if any, on Lyme disease risks. I understand that some would like to stop hunting of these species and other species for their own reasons, and respect their right to advocate for that position, although I disagree.

Let me add that I very much appreciate your tone in this email in contrast to past comments and statements I believe you have made on Facebook.

Thank you,

Louis

From: HALE IRWIN [mailto:hale.irwin@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Christy Ketchel
Cc: Louis.Porter@vermont.gov; fwboard.orange@gmail.com
Subject: Response to NRF&W Committee Hearing on Coyotes in Vermont

Good Afternoon,

**Please find my attached letter to Representative Dean of the Natural Resource, Fish and Wildlife Committee.
Thankyou for your time and consideration of my comments.**

**Sincerely,
Hale Irwin
Middlesex, VT**

From: Kevin Lawrence [mailto:fwboard.orange@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:02 PM
To: HALE IRWIN; Fish & Wildlife Board

Cc: Christy Ketchel; Porter, Louis

Subject: Re: Response to NRF&W Committee Hearing on Coyotes in Vermont

Dear Mr. Irwin-- Your efforts to modify the coyote harvest seem sincere and directed. At the same time, you employ much hyperbole and denigrating language towards hunters which misses the mark of truth for those of us who enjoy time in the forests, fields, and setbacks of Vermont holding firearms and licenses to pursue our interests in the outdoors.

You must agree that a quick search of VT shooting accidents over the last 25 years in Vermont includes no accidental shootings of third parties during predator hunts. As well, the Eastern coyote has full-- even overflowing-- populations every fall because they consistently fill any niches or voids that appear in populations. The coyote is a newcomer with a firm grip in the northeast. Yes, coyote hunters can be encountered, but I note that during my last 100 days afield hiking, hunting, and scouting for game in the counties of Orange, Washington, and Rutland I never ran into someone I could identify as strictly a coyote hunter. People may want the freedom to hunt coyotes, but in no way is the hunt activity out of control.

Education of the new hunters entering the field in State-sponsored Hunter/Firearms Training courses includes much discussion and practice on ethics and public perceptions of hunters. I will teach a course this summer if you wish to observe activities first-hand that relate to introducing new hunters to a love of the outdoors that includes respect for all.

My best,

Kevin Lawrence, Board Chair

From: JoAnne Pereira [mailto:jpereira@myfairpoint.net]

Sent: Saturday, February 03, 2018 8:04 AM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: Open season

I am disgusted and concerned about the continuing slaughter of coyotes in Vt. Please disband open season on coyotes. It is not a sport, not for food, just merciless killing to feed a deranged ego. Hunters are disrespectful, hunt on my land without permission because "it's open season" Not my tax dollars for this disgusting hunting law.

From: polly hill [mailto:rosemerefarm@me.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2018 10:12 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: PLEASE LIMIT THE COYOTE SEASON

As a resident of Vermont, I have always found one of the most incredible things that made me continue to live here and have a business here, is the wildlife. Unfortunately I find many of the states policies unfounded in basic science and archaic.

To have an open season on our only predator species stands on no valid science and is causing unbalance in our ecosystems. Coyotes are hunters of mice, for this reason alone they are

especially important to our ecology because of the widespread increased of Lyme and other tick born disease.

I have had a farm for many many years, raised a variety of things mainly chickens and horses. Coyotes are only a nuisance to people who farm who just are not careful. Cats and small dogs should be brought inside before dusk as should small livestock. For people raising sheep or goats the addition of a couple of llamas or medium to large donkeys does the trick. Chickens by nature want to be in their coops by dusk so really they are not threatened by coyotes who generally are nocturnal hunters. I have never had to resort to shooting a coyote.

I am appalled by the slaughter that goes on with coyotes. The biology is known, being a canine species if their pack is disrupted, the females go into estrus. Vermont draws tourists due to its incredible natural beauty. If the hunting and trapping policies that this state has continue, it is going to start to change the tourist industry that relies on one of the major draws here: wildlife and the environment. I have witnessed many friends who upon learning of the trapping policies Vermont has, have chosen to go elsewhere to states that have banned the archaic trapping practices. The fact that in this day of nearly every person on the planet has contact with some sort of social media, this is going to eventually destroy the tourism industry in our state. The coyote slaughtering contests are widely broadcast on Facebook and Instagram. This killing for contest is horrifying to many, and is this really what we want our state to be portrayed as? Personally I don't and neither do any of my friends or family or people in come in contact with on a daily basis.

Please represent our states residents fairly and stop the coyote killing contests and the year round open season. This is not sound practice nor does it portray Vermont in a good light. In this day of mass shootings and school shootings, very few people nationwide feel that the indiscriminate slaughter that takes places in these so called contests is a positive thing. It is time that Vermont is forward thinking in its dealings with wildlife and not bending to a few. Our wildlife is vanishing plain and simple, housing in encroaching limiting the habitat. The presence of ticks carrying Lyme, Babesia Microti, and Erlichiosis are becoming widespread. These diseases are dangerous as well as many times life threatening to man and animals alike. Their diet is made up of mice and voles, piece being a **prime vector** for these tick borne diseases. Why the health and wellbeing of the general population is not being considered for the enjoyment of a select few is disconcerting.

I am a sixty four year old taxpayer, whose adult children and grandchildren live in the state and non of our family or friends are in agreement with the coyote treatment in the state. Please take my email under serious consideration before the damage caused by the indiscriminate hunting of coyote is too late. Please if for no reason other than to help control the increase of ticks in the state.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Polly Hill
Bethel, Vermont