

From: Darling, Scott
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 8:10 AM
To: Alexander, Cedric; Bernier, Chris; Fortin, Nick; Gallant, Keith; Hammond, Forrest; Gieder, Katherina
Cc: Good, Shawn
Subject: FW: Wanton Waste Law needed.
Attachments: Wanton waste wildlife.JPG

FYI

From: Don <vtfull@vt.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2018 8:51 PM
To: Porter, Louis <Louis.Porter@vermont.gov>; Scott, Mark <Mark.Scott@vermont.gov>; Batchelder, Jason <Jason.Batchelder@vermont.gov>; Darling, Scott <Scott.Darling@vermont.gov>; Board, Rutland <fwboard.rutland@gmail.com>; Board, Addison <addison.board@gmail.com>; Board, Randolph <randolph.board@gmail.com>
Cc: Don Isabelle <vtfull@vt.gov>
Subject: Wanton Waste Law needed.

Dear Fish & Wildlife Board,

For those of you who do not know me my name is Don Isabelle. I am a retired Vermont State Game Warden having worked for the department for over 25 years. I am also an avid hunter and trapper.

Attached you will find a photograph of five dead coyotes that have been harvested for the sole reason that it was legal to do so. Some of these coyotes have been hanging at this residence for months and I predict that all will continue to do so well into the spring. This same type of activity occurred last year at this residence with three dead coyotes hanging off of this same game pole until late spring.

I believe it is **way beyond the time** that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife department needs to implement a "Wanton Waste" law. I am aware that critics may say they are just coyotes! During my career as a state game warden I have seen bears, deer and wild turkeys that were harvested, hung and left to rot. I have also witnessed numerous spring shot muskrats, pelts intact, discarded by the side of the road. As far as fish go, I have seen most species caught and left on the ice as well as fish that were caught and left on the banks of various bodies of water or discarded in highway pull offs and department owned access areas.

One would question if the Vermont Fish & Wildlife department thinks that little of our resources finding it acceptable to allow people to harvest wildlife and not utilize their meat and/or pelts but let them rot? I think that the waste depicted in the attach photograph is not a message the department would like to send to the hunting and non-hunting public that views this type of activity. I know first hand that local hunters who have seen these coyotes hanging at this residence are less than impressed.

I often have often wondered why other states and Canadian Provinces hold the harvest and utilization of their wildlife to a higher standard and have implemented a Wanton Waste law yet Vermont allows this type of activity to continue. An example of two of these laws would be Ontario's and Alaska's. Ontario's law states that a person may not let the flesh of any harvested game wildlife which is suitable for food be destroyed, spoiled or abandoned. A hunter who kills a fur bearing mammal shall not abandon the pelt or permit to be spoiled or destroyed. Alaska's law states in section (a) It is a class A misdemeanor for a person who kills a big game animal or furbearer or a species of wild fowl to fail intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, or with criminal negligence to salvage for human use the edible meat or fur of an animal or fowl. These are just two examples of many Wanton Waste laws that I have researched.

Around 1980, after having seen numerous big game animals hung up and left to rot, I asked the Major at the time why Vermont didn't have a Wanton Waste law as I felt it was needed. I was told that "Peer Pressure" was the way to get it to stop. This has proven ineffective as almost 30 years later this waste of our resources still continues.

I would like to see the Vermont Fish & Wildlife department and board take the initiative to implement a regulation making it illegal to not utilize the meat from game animals harvested, pelts of furbearers harvested and the flesh of fish caught and kept. I would rather see this type of regulation come from within the Fish & Wildlife department then have a legislature sponsor, and get law makers to pass, a Wanton Waste bill that the department is not comfortable with.

Thank you for your time and I hope the see a regulation passed soon making it illegal for anyone to be allowed to waste Vermont's precious natural resources.

Respectfully,

Don Isabelle