

Citizen Resolution # 030123



Nesting Bird Conservation Reward Program - A reward to trappers to help reduce the overpopulation of fur bearing animals such as coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums & red fox.

As I have been watching the fur market, it has decreased for 5 consecutive years. This is important, if furs don't have value, then the fur bearing animals are not trapped. If trappers don't harvest the animals, overpopulation occurs. With overpopulation, it becomes a nuisance that affects farm animals, recreational activities, towns & cities. Overpopulation causes a lack of food in the wild. Animals will move near homes looking for their next meal which is often in garbage cans. The nuisance animals will kill chickens & ducks & their eggs, eat animal or pet food & overall hurt farmer's income.

"In WI, cattle deaths by predators are heavily influenced by the presence of coyotes at 23.4%. Overall, coyotes cause 37.6% of predator deaths to calves while wolves cause 28.9%."

In my research, South Dakota has a program called "South Dakota's Nest Predator Bounty Program." Their program allows residents of South Dakota to trap animals & turn in their tails for \$10 a piece. Participants must comply with the South Dakota trapping regulations. This program targets coyotes, raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, & red fox. These animals eat nesting bird's eggs.

Utah also has a program like this called the "Predator-Control Program." This program is designated for coyotes only. This program gives trappers & hunters \$50 for each properly documented coyote harvested in Utah. This program shows when given incentives to harvest predators, it will help bring the predator populations down.

If WI started a similar program focusing on fur bearing animals, we could decrease predator populations, raise our duck & pheasant populations, & keep generational traditions from fading away. We can give fur bearing animals value. If valued, there will be fewer nest stealing animals by way of trapping.

Trapping has been used for generations as an animal population management technique. This program would allow trapping to continue for many more generations while managing all wildlife.

Would you support the WI Conservation Congress working with the Department of Natural Resources and/or the WI State Legislature to develop and implement a statewide trapping incentive reward program to help reduce the overpopulation of fur bearing animals such as coyotes, raccoons, and striped skunks?

Additional Information provided by author:

Supporting documentation:

<https://www.wisfarmer.com/>

<https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>

<https://wildlife.utah.gov/predator-control-program.html>

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Barron County

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