

Citizen Resolution # 040223



End All Wildlife Killing Contests

Wildlife killing contests promote indiscriminate killing of native wildlife with the use of calls, hounds, traps, and high-tech tools including night vision. 90+ Wisconsin contests have been identified via tavern fliers and social media; annual Moondog Madness being the largest. Petitions, billboards, letters to editors, and undercover contest video footage have raised public awareness and support for ending these recreational events. In response, some contests now organize using private forums, code words and weigh-in sites shared via Instant Messenger, and virtual "shake video" check-ins to prevent cheating. Large cash payouts and prizes, including weapons, award teams killing the most, biggest, smallest coyote, fox, crow, rabbit, and more.

The DNR does not regulate contests. Wisconsin does not have a wanton waste law. Disposal of contest carcasses lies at the discretion of contest organizers or participants. Illegal disposal of carcasses on WI public lands have been documented (e.g., 5/2018 Morgan Falls area, Ashland; 4/2019 Old HW 2, Bayfield; 2/2017 Shiocton). Photos of mutilated, bullet-ridden animals and commentary indicate pelts are oftentimes useless to fur buyers. To date, wanton waste on public lands is equated to and punishable by a littering citation.

Increasing support for this resolution may indicate hunters and non hunters alike, do not endorse killing for fun, prizes, and cash. This disparity over contests is a statewide issue; many Wisconsinites have expressed support for a ban, and some hunters are concerned that public support for traditional, ethical, humane, fair chase hunting is at stake. 8 states have banned contest killing citing a 2018 Statement Of Opposition signed by 70 conservation scientists whose findings deem indiscriminate killing as an ineffective and unsportsmanlike management tool for problem predators. A ban on contests would not impact lethal take of coyote for livestock protection, or any form of hunting including fishing and "Big Buck" competitions.

Do you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress advising the WDNR, the Natural Resources Board, and the state Legislature to seek a legislative ban on all wildlife killing contests?

Additional Information provided by author:

http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SAB-Letter-Against-WKCs__FINAL_2021.01.13.pdf

<https://youtu.be/e2kMjS3GZJA>

<https://youtu.be/1VRuWsHsldM>

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4dmb4j354p1afmw/IMG_4251.JPG?dl=0

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