

Citizen Resolution # 080221

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Ban All Wildlife Contest Killing

Wildlife killing contests promote indiscriminate killing of native wildlife with the use of calls, hounds, and high-tech tools. 40+ Wisconsin contests have been identified via fliers and social media; annual Moondog Madness being the largest. Petitions, billboards, LTEs, and more recently undercover contest video footage have raised public awareness and support for ending these events. In response, organizers now operate in secret using private forums, code words, undisclosed weigh-in locations, and virtual video check ins. Cash and prizes, including weapons, award teams killing the most, biggest, smallest coyote, fox, bobcat, rabbit, and more. A ban on contests would not impact lethal take of coyote for livestock protection, or any form of hunting including fishing derbies and "Big Buck" competitions. The DNR does not monitor/regulate contests; they are not required to respond to hounds at large or trespassing on private land. Wanton cruelty and waste, and illegal disposal of carcasses on public land have been reported to and documented by WIDNR (e.g., 5/2018 Morgan Falls area, Ashland County; 4/2019 Old HW 2, Bayfield County; 2/2017 Shiocton). Contest photos of mutilated, bullet-ridden furs indicate many pelts are useless.

Increasing support for this resolution shows hunters and non hunters alike do not endorse indiscriminate killing for fun, prizes, and cash. This divisiveness over contests is evident on social media; many hunters express concern that public support for traditional, ethical, humane, fair chase hunting is at stake. 7 states have banned competition killing, all citing 70 conservation scientists' 2018 findings that indiscriminate killing serves no effective management tool.

Be it resolved on April 12, 2021 that the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting, ask the following: do you support the Conservation Congress working with the WDNR to develop and support a ban on all wildlife killing contests?

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

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**Jane Salsich
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