

# Citizen Resolution # 130523



## Give Coyotes Protections from Year-Round Open Season Hunting

Coyotes provide a number of positive ecological services that contribute to clean and healthy rural and urban communities, including forests, grasslands and agriculture, where they are present: Their primary diet is rodents that transmit diseases, including Lyme, LCM and hantavirus (Watts, 2014). Keeping rodents and prey animals in check also protects against crop loss. As scavengers, coyotes help keep local ecosystems clean of carrion.

As the top carnivore they limit the number of egg-eating mesopredators (skunks, fox, possum raccoons) of ground-nesting birds (Mezquida, 2006), such as the state-threatened prairie chicken. By exclusion competition, the presence of coyotes increases the numbers and diversity of songbirds (Crooks and Soule, 1999).

Coyotes begin mating in February, forming a long-lasting, often monogamous relationship. Pups are born in April/May. The adult pair are devoted parents, both hunting and bringing food to the den and raising them until Fall (Green, 1994). A science-based hunting season considers protections of a species during denning of cubs and pups and the raising of young. The DNR has established hunting seasons for some furbearing animals (fox, raccoons, bobcats). The season for coyotes is open year-round, with day and night hunting, with NO protections. Breeding females and pups in the den can be hunted, Furbearing Animal Hunting Seasons (excerpted from DNR-PUB-WM-153-2022)

Raccoons-Residents

Oct. 16

Feb. 15

Raccoons-Nonresidents

Oct. 30

Feb. 15

Fox-Red and Gray

Oct. 16

Feb. 15

Coyote

Year-round open hunting season

.29.337(1) WILL NOT CHANGE allowing property owners to hunt or remove nuisance wildlife, without

License

Proposal would eliminate ability to hunt coyotes with nursing pups.

**Do you support having the DNR establish a hunting season for the coyote which falls in line with the fox and resident raccoon hunting season?**

Additional Information provided by author:

Sources: DNR-PUB-WM-153-2022. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

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