

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Cc: [Wildlife DIRECTOR: info@projectcoyote.org](mailto:info@projectcoyote.org)
Subject: Ban Predator Killing Contests
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Please ban predator killing contests. I'm British but in the US for work and pay taxes in California. We have no large predators left in England. As a tourist I want to see native iconic species in their natural habitat. I went into culture shock when I discovered these contests even exist.

Sincerely

Helen Braynis PhD
[REDACTED]

Predator killing contests are ethically indefensible events allowing participants to kill wildlife to win prizes. They are ecologically reckless, not only harming individual animals, but also altering predator-prey dynamics, disrupting the social dynamics of predator species, and increasing threats to public safety. They have no beneficial management purpose but simply promote gratuitous violence against wildlife.

1. Predator killing contests, "derbies" and "drives" are conducted for profit, entertainment, prizes and, simply, for the "fun" of killing. This is not about sport or fair-chase; animals are often baited and lured with distress calls of wounded young, placing wildlife at an even greater and unfair disadvantage.
2. No evidence exists showing that indiscriminate killing contests control problem animals or serve any beneficial management function. For example, coyote populations that are not exploited (that is hunted, trapped, or controlled by other means) form stable "extended family" social structures that naturally limit populations through defense of territory and the suppression of breeding by subordinate female members of the family group. Indiscriminate killing of coyotes disrupts this social stability resulting in increased reproduction and pup survival.
3. Predators have been shown to provide ecosystem services that benefit humans, including the control of rodents and rabbits, which compete with domestic livestock for forage and which are associated with diseases such as plague, hantavirus, tularemia and Lyme disease.
4. Predator killing contests perpetuate a culture of violence and send the message to children that life has little value and that an entire species of animals is disposable.
5. Predator killing contests put non-target wildlife, companion animals, and people at risk.