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LD 820

LD 820 OPPOSE

Why is there a need for this bill? There is none.

It was wrong to list "hunting" as the "go to" method for wildlife management options, when hunting does not always guarantee the best outcome. Beaver that are causing a flooding issue, are often best controlled using Beaver Deceivers. This solution can stop flooding issues, create valuable wildlife habitat, improve ground water quality and provide natural fire-breaks.

Many farmers simply need to be educated on best practices for livestock management/safety...rather than suggesting killing all the coyotes in their area to be the "go to" solution.

Instead of hunting being "endangered," it is clear to me that we are offering more animals to hunt (recently squirrels) with ever increasing methods to kill them and extending seasons are on-going. Traditionally, hunting season started in September and ended the last Saturday in November. I remember those days. And we had to stop hunting at sundown...today, you can be in the deep woods, hunting, a half hour AFTER sunset. There is no way to clearly identify your game in the deep woods a half hour after sunset in November; and especially not on an overcast day. And then there is the change in age when one can hunt. Did you know? Even a 3 year old can have a hunting license and kill a moose or bear (or any game animal) as long as an adult is right beside them. Yes. You read that right.

Well I, as a person who has enjoyed decades of hunting, am not at all happy with some of what is being allowed today. I am, in fact, outraged at some of it...with good reason. So when I see this being proposed as a "need" I could not sit on my hands.

Hunting and fishing and trapping in Maine are thriving to the point of losing all common sense. There is not a day now in Maine (other than Sundays) when the general public are apt to come across a complete stranger with a rifle in our woods; legally hunting! Yes. Even in the spring and summer months. They are even apt to come across a pack of hound dogs running at large with "chase and kill" on their brains...all year long. I want you to think about that. There are lots of people in our woods during the spring, summer and fall months. What about them and their need to get away from it all and what of their own safety? I urge you to check out this link and listen to the testimony of Meryl Siegman. It happened in Vermont... it can happen anywhere here in Maine, at any time. Did you know all the LMF lands have to allow hunting and trapping. But they currently are feeling threatened and need a Constitutional amendment?

I call that "over-kill."

<https://www.addisonindependent.com/2019/10/31/bear-hunting-hounds-attack-hikers-and-pup/>