



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Gary A. Drinkwater

38 Emerald Drive
Milford, ME 04461
Residence: (207) 356-8198
Gary.Drinkwater@legislature.maine.gov

Sen Baldacci, and distinguished member of the Inland and Fisheries committee, I'm Gary Drinkwater representing district 27, the town of Alton, Argyle, Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, and my hometown of Milford.

While doing some research on this subject, I watched Gerry Levigne talk about the Deer population on Bud Leavitt's Woods and Water show from 1991. He talked about the Deer population in Washington county, and its collapse. He spoke of wood harvesting, road kill, and Coyote predation. Washington county for those that don't remember was the go-to area for hunting at one time. My family had an off-grid hunting camp there when I was a young lad.

When the Deer population collapsed, we sold the camp and converted a school bus to a camper.

I'm here today to speak on LD 716. Having been raised in a hunting family I have seen the harm Coyotes do to our Deer population, I have found remains of Deer that we driven out onto the ice, once on the ice the Deer cannot run or trot because of their hoofs. Mr. Willy coyote knows this and takes full advantage heading deer out onto ice. As a hunter we always strive to make a clean, quick shot to put down a Deer. Coyotes on the other hand, while chasing a Deer keep nipping at the rear quarters as the Deer is running, thus causing the Deer to stop running, they feed on the rear quarters while the Deer is down and suffering.

Coyotes are very smart, they hunt in packs, they know when calving season is happening. This committee heard last session about farmers hiring animal damage control hunters to guard the livestock as they are calving.

September 2010 Maine Public Broadcasting Network told this story, **in the town of Freeport, farmer Brad Thompson had his 1200 LB pregnant cow attack by coyotes. Thompson said the cow was about to give birth and the coyotes took the cow down and ripped**

the calf from the cow and killed it. Scott Lindsey, a wildlife biologist with The Maine department of inland fisheries and wildlife, says there may be as many as 20,000 coyotes in Maine. I was reminded today that MDIFW once estimated that coyotes killed on average 3 white tailed deer per year. With 20,000 of them running around killing 60,000 deer a year, it's no wonder I don't see any deer in the woods of Maine. When you consider that deer harvest by hunters last fall was a tick over 18,000 and the total estimated deer population struggles in the low 200,000 range, I would guess a few thousand hunters when hungry for venison this past year.

I have hunted zone 4 since 1968 and I can say that the Deer population is struggling. The big snow we had about 7 years ago reduced the already struggling population. This committee is all about the resources, and I ask that the committee vote ought not to pass.

DEC 24 Coyote Management In Maine – All 2007 Talk And No Action?

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.



Earlier this year the Maine Legislature, under pressure from hunters and other sportsmen groups, formulated a deer task force group to find ways to improve deer habitat and control coyote populations in Maine, particularly in the North Woods and Eastern Maine. The task force has concluded its work and it is my understanding have submitted their recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This work should become public information soon.

In an [article](#) published in the Lewiston Sun Journal, V. Paul Reynolds, editor of the Northwoods

Sporting Journal and a registered Maine guide asks:

.....will something of substance actually be done to control coyotes in deer yards, or will this all just be deja vu all over again?

Reynolds points out in his article that this is not the first time studies and recommendations have been made for something to be done.

As far back as 1985, another so-called Public Working Group recommended that the Department (MDIF&W) "increase coyote harvest and expand coyote control." Then, again, 10 years later in 1995, after deer biologist Gerry Lavigne told legislators that coyotes account for 30 percent of deer mortality in Maine, the state legislature mandated that the Department "conduct a study to determine impact of coyotes on deer and propose recommendations to encourage coyote control."

Northern and Eastern Maine has had a problem for some time getting its deer populations up to management goal levels. It has been said that two reasons have hindered that – essential habitat reductions and an overblown coyote population. While the state continues to work with landowners to find ways of protecting and improving deer habitat and in particular wintering deer yards, efforts to control coyotes have been hampered by lawsuits.

The first lawsuit resulted in the banning of the use of snare traps for coyotes. Snares were used around winter deer yard areas to catch coyotes preying on deer. Buckling under the pressure of animal rights groups, the state gave in and allowed the ban on the use of such traps.

Yet again, the state recently settled a lawsuit out of court filed by the Animal Protection Institute, seeking protections for the Canada lynx. As part of that settlement, MDIFW agreed to once again place restrictions of trap usage. Larger traps used by coyote trappers were eliminated because of unfounded fears that lynx might get caught in them.

When you talk with trappers across Maine, the overwhelming consensus that I get is that once the state banned the use of snares, the only effective means of trapping the coyote was gone.

Even though MDIFW has lengthened coyote hunting seasons and has even allowed nighttime hunting, this effort has virtually no affect on coyote populations. The recent upturn in pelt prices has helped motivate a few more hunters and trappers but not to any point that would result in population reductions.

As we sit and wait the findings of the deer group, we will then see what, if anything, the JSC will propose for legislative action to help save a threatened whitetail deer herd.

Or will we be staring down the barrel of another all talk and no action recommendation?

Tom Remington

Related Posts

- Midcoast Maine Coyote Surge. Take Down 1,200 lb. Cow And Calf
- Gerry Lavigne Offers Maine Coyote Control Plan
- We Need A "More Sophisticated Understanding" Of Coyote Management

Connect With Me



SIGN UP
FOR OUR MAILING LIST
[CLICK HERE](#)



Archive

Archives - Select -
Categories - Select -

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

Recent Comments



BC

Based upon my experience working with the New Mexico Fish & Game Dept., just like counting bird populations, when deer and elk herds gather together during the cold season, the G&F Dept. do a...

[Where Have All The Elk Gone? Long Time Passing · 3 years ago](#)

SEP 24 2010 Midcoast Maine Coyote Surge. Take Down 1,200 lb. Cow And Calf

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Early last week I [told you](#) about one Mid-coast Maine town, Bath, that was warning its residents to be on the lookout for coyotes and not to leave children outside and unattended.

The [Maine Public Broadcasting Network](#) adds to this story and provides greater detail as well as evidence that the presence of too many coyotes goes out beyond the town of Bath.

Tom Porter interviews Bath police lieutenant Stan Cielenski about some of the problems. In Bath it appears most of the problems and complaints surround missing cats and coyote sightings. However, in the town of Freeport, just south of Bath, farmer Brad Thompson had his 1,200 pound pregnant cow attacked by coyotes.

Thompson said the cow was about to give birth and the coyotes took the cow down and ripped the calf from the cow and killed it.

There are a few myths that need to be dispelled here. One is that coyotes hunt alone. These crafty, highly adaptable animals, believed to be a hybrid of coyote and wolf in some parts of the state, have learned to pack up and hunt in numbers. Because of this, they are taking on bigger prey; in this case a 1,200 pound cow.

This being the case, not only should people pay serious attention to a police warning about leaving your kids unattended but adults should consider protection for themselves as well. If a pack of coyotes can take down a 1,200 pound cow in order to devour the fetus/calf, I don't think a 200-pound man is much of an obstacle.

Scott Lindsay, a wildlife biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, says there may be as many as 20,000 coyotes in Maine. I was reminded today that MDIFW once estimated that coyotes killed on average 3 whitetail deer per year. With 20,000 of them flea bags running around killing 60,000 deer a year, it's no wonder I don't see any deer in the woods of Maine. When you consider that deer harvest by hunters last fall was a tick over 18,000 and the total estimated deer population struggles in the low 200,000 range, I would guess a few thousand hunters went hungry for venison this past year.

Tom Remington

Related Posts

- [Bath, Maine Police Issue Coyote Warning](#)
- [Wrong Maine Coyote Policy?](#)
- [Gerry Lavigne Offers Maine Coyote Control Plan](#)
- [Coyote Management In Maine – All Talk And No Action?](#)
- [Maine's Wolf/Coyote Hybrid](#)

2 [Comments](#)

BRING YOUR PHONE
KEEP YOUR NUMBER



mint
SHOP P

Capable device re

Sponsored

The most relaxing Farm Game. No Install

Taonga: The Island Farm

Play Now

Fight Nail Fungus and Keep Your Nails Healthy

Okita Nail Fungus Light

Learn More

Connect With Me



SIGN UP
FOR OUR MAILING LIST
[CLICK HERE](#)



Archive

Archives [- Select -](#)
Categories [- Select -](#)

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

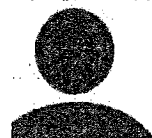
Recent Comments



BC

Based upon my experience working with the New Mexico Fish & Game Dept., just like counting bird populations, when deer and elk herds gather together during the cold season, the G&F Dept. do a...

[Where Have All The Elk Gone? Long Time Passing](#) · [3 years ago](#)



kimayn1234

Well she was infringing on his hunt ..Wolves got to eat can't run to Walmart . Hunters you know . Then get away with killing legally something that they don't even eat . If she was legit defending...

[Idaho Woman Attacked By Wolf](#) · [3 years ago](#)



Moz

I am glad that I am using this site. This is very helpful site.

APR 07 2011 Gerry Lavigne Offers Maine Coyote Control Plan

Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Former head deer biologist of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), Gerry Lavigne has put together a coyote control program (kinetic predator action to remain Obama correct). His plan, created for the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) has also been made available to the MDIFW and is being circulated among several Maine sportsman's groups and individuals.

The plan's executive summary reads:

Executive Summary

Deer populations in Maine are unacceptably low and in need of restoration. Among several causative factors, predation by coyotes ranks high in importance, particularly in the northern half of the state. We propose a coyote control program that integrates the participation of hunters, trappers, hunting-based businesses and organizations, landowners, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Coyote control will be biologically based, and will be accomplished by both recreational hunters and trappers, and paid (and volunteer) Animal Damage Control (ADC) agents. Coyotes will be taken using foothold traps by licensed trappers, or by hunters employing baiting, calling, hounds, or incidental encounters. Control efforts will focus on coyote removal at the landscape level in an effort to reduce pre-winter coyote density statewide. This will be followed by targeted removal of coyotes in and near important deer wintering areas located in the northern half of the state. Control efforts may also be applied in fawning areas during the spring.

The role expected of various participants in this effort is discussed. Legislative changes that may enhance the effectiveness of coyote control efforts are identified.

Lavigne's plan clearly spells out why coyote control is necessary and the distinct roles that need to be played by all factions of Maine's business, recreational, legislative, fish and game and private community.

Will it work? Will it be implemented? Will anyone in Augusta bother to read it?

For a copy of Lavigne's full plan in PDF, [click this link for a download](#).

In related news, [George Smith](#), former executive director for the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM), filed his own report of the events occurring at yesterday's MDIFW/Legislative committee hearing on a grocery list of coyote-related proposed pieces of legislation. The attached Coyote Control Plan of Lavigne's was distributed at that meeting.

While George Smith is far more "friendly" with Maine's very influential environmental organizations than I would be, often lining up in opposition to Maine's hunting and trapping heritage, he takes the time to mention that the Maine Audubon Society opposed all the coyote bills being discussed and urged everyone to support the newly written [Deer Action Plan](#), labeled far and wide across the state as "an action plan with no action". I suppose that endorsement in and of itself is probably reason enough to believe the plan is no good for restoring deer numbers and bringing back deer hunting opportunities.

Another point of interest brought to our attention on Smith's blog is that Mark Stadler, Director of DIF&W's Wildlife Division, spoke out in favor of LD 372 which would give the MDIFW \$100,000 in extra funds. It is not a common occurrence for members of MDIFW to speak out in support or opposition to such bills, only to respond from a biological position or for clarification, but I suppose that bright red carrot of an extra \$100,000 is enough to make even a seasoned veteran dash for the cash or do you supposed he really wanted it to be used to kill coyotes?

Tom Remington

Related Posts

- [Maine Sees Glimmer Of Hope In Predator Control](#)
- [Wrong Maine Coyote Policy?](#)
- [Midcoast Maine Coyote Surge. Take Down 1,200 lb. Cow And Calf](#)
- [S. Carolina Residents Concerned About Coyote Control](#)
- [Coyote Management In Maine -- All Talk And No Action?](#)

Connect With Me



Archive

Archives - Select -
Categories - Select -

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

Recent Comments



Based upon my experience working with the New Mexico Fish & Game Dept., just like counting bird populations, when deer and elk herds gather together during the cold season, the G&F Dept. do a...

[Where Have All The Elk Gone? Long Time Passing · 3 years ago](#)