

Seth Edwards  
Palmyra  
LD 716

As an avid Maine outdoorsman, Registered Maine Guide and night coyote hunter I can say that I have personally seen positive effects on game populations, especially deer when coyote numbers are kept in check. I've certainly seen the effects on my own property however I'll share a story about another. I received a call two years ago from an acquaintance in the town that I live in. The landowner is a very avid deer hunter and manages his property primarily for agriculture (hay production) but also for deer habitat. He explained to me that his deer numbers had significantly decreased and evidence of coyotes had skyrocketed. Over the course of the following year, within the restrictions of current laws I was able to ethically remove some of the coyotes by night hunting. I certainly did not eliminate them all but these efforts had the desired outcome. The following months his deer numbers returned to what they had previously been.

To keep this testimony brief I will skip the details but two other occasions come to mind. One is a sheep farmer who lost 9 sheep to coyotes and asked for help. During the time frame of this proposed season shut down I was able to remove coyotes from his farm and stop the predation of his livestock. The second was another farmer who has multiple species of livestock. Coyotes had been killing his ducks and chickens on a regular basis. One night he shined the field upon hearing their howling and saw 11 sets of coyote eyes looking back at him. Through a collective effort with other hunters coyotes were removed, again during the proposed shut down dates to mitigate his livestock losses.

This proposed legislation does not help Maine, its farmers or its outdoorsmen & women.