

Claire Perry
Owls Head
LD 716

LD 716 SUPPORT 3/3/25

Sometimes Our IFWD Gets It Wrong.

For approximately 30 YEARS...Our IFWD prioritized SAM's lobbyists and "coyote-hounders", while turning a deaf ear to Maine's landowners/farmers. It took decades to get a Hound Dog Trespass Bill passed. It finally happened in 2023. DECADES.

One cannot justify that.

Now, here we are with LD 716. A CLOSED SEASON FOR COYOTES:

Four out of five well respected wildlife biologists (serving on Maine's IFWD's Coyote Management Plan Sub-Committee 2020-2030) voted in strong support for a well-regulated: Closed Coyote Season. Two of them specialize in canids. The only "opposed" biologist on this committee works for SAM. Interestingly, to date, nothing has changed. Again, this begs the question: "WHY?"

With impressive public support of farmers, professors, biologists, Maine guides, naturalists, and average citizens..when best science (instead of killing "wants") and our own IFWD tells us: "Coyotes are a misunderstood and valuable part of Maine's ecosystems", and knowing that killing coyotes will most often lead to more coyotes overall.....yet, nothing changed.

That begs the question: "WHY?"

People can still kill coyotes in deer yards up North or anywhere else they wish. They can kill them with dogs or traps or guns or arrows etc. They can kill them at night and during the day. They can kill all of them in a whole region if they want. They can temporarily wipe them out of an area if they want; create "sink-holes"...and some do just that. A closed season won't stop any of it.

WHAT A CLOSED SEASON WILL DO... Is give to a coyote the same respect it gives to all of Maine's fur-bearers and important predators. This is a time when their fur is not valuable and when all manner of wildlife in our woods are trying to raise their vulnerable young. A time (April-Sept) and place where people with guns and hound dogs, running-at -large, have no place. Spring; Biologists know this as the miracle of Phenology.

Coyotes are not vermin. We need to stop treating them as such. Remember: 4 out of 5 of those well respected wildlife biologists heartily agree! They obviously don't believe coyotes will over-populate nor be a threat to people or their pets because of this closed season.They support science, not fear or monetary gain.

A well-regulated season for our coyotes is moving ahead with best science; not staying stuck in the 1800's mentality. Something those four biologists also agreed on and encouraged. It's time.

One more thing: This will definitely help with the sensitive wanton waste issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Perry
Owls Head-Maine