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Kansas Sierra Club Position on the use of Enhanced Technology to Hunt Coyotes

K.A.R. 115-5-1, Section d

The Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club opposes the recently approved use of enhanced technology, including night-vision and thermal imaging equipment and artificial lights, for the recreational hunting of coyotes and urges Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) to ban their use, as have other states.

- KDWPT weighed disproportionately the special interests of predator hunters wanting to use high tech equipment for killing coyotes.

To address only limited special interests risks having the agency lose relevance to society. The limited conditions under which the use of enhanced technology was approved should not be expanded.

Hunting of coyotes with enhanced technology is limited or banned in several states. Decision-makers entrusted with protection of wildlife for the benefit of all Kansans should weigh the broader biological, societal, cultural and economic considerations when making decisions.

- The regulation which approves use of artificial lights, night-vision, thermal-imaging equipment for coyote hunting must be enforced and monitored for adverse impacts on private landowners, public safety, law enforcement and/or other wildlife.

If problems are identified, solutions should be implemented promptly. KDWPT should put more emphasis on supporting outdoor activities by non-hunters, such as wildlife watchers, campers, hikers and equestrians, who do not normally pose threats to public safety or infringe upon the use of public or private lands.

- Hunting of coyotes with enhanced technology does not allow "sporting chance or fair chase."

The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation establishes that wildlife should be killed only for a legitimate purpose and defines a sportsman as an individual who hunts primarily for the pursuit or chase, affords game a "sporting" chance (fair chase) and will not waste any game that is killed.

- Scientific studies do not support shooting coyotes as an effective means of controlling coyote populations or reducing predation on livestock or wildlife.

While it is the position of the Sierra Club that acceptable management approaches include both regulated periodic hunting and fishing, rules should be based on sufficient scientifically valid biological data and when consistent with all other management purposes.

Sierra Club supports wildlife and plant management, agricultural and other human practices that aim at discouraging human/ wildlife/plant conflicts, with emphasis on nonlethal control of wildlife when feasible.