



Voices of Wildlife in NH (VOW)

P.O. Box 5802

Manchester, NH 03108

voicesofwildlifeinnh@gmail.com

www.voicesofwildlifeinnh.org

January 2, 2018

Mr. Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director
NH Fish & Game Department
11 Hazen Dr.
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Rulemaking petition to shorten the coyote hunting season

Dear Director Normandeau:

Enclosed is a rulemaking petition for consideration that we submit under the guidance of Fis 214.01. NH Fish and Game's (NHFG) rulemaking authority to set seasons is derived from RSA 206:10.

The coyote is an animal that is not valued as it ought to be as an important member of NH's wild animal population. This is evident in the NH Fish and Game Department's (NHFG) policy that permits coyotes to be hunted all year-round. By comparison other wild animals in NH have closed seasons to protect them during vulnerable times of the year, such as when they are rearing young.

This is our second attempt to shorten the coyote season under rulemaking. Previously, NHFG denied the petition indicating that, "we are required to balance individual animal interests with population-wide public interests". What better way for the department to balance those interests than by opening it up to rulemaking and allowing NH citizens to voice an opinion on coyote management.

To really appreciate this animal please watch this wonderful presentation by Chris Schadler - <http://www.projectcoyote.org/mediaroom/videos/dummerston-conservation-commission-chris-schadler-becoming-wolf/>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dionne, President

Cc: Wildlife Div. Chief Mark Ellingwood

Atty. Paul Sanderson

Administrative Asst. Tanya Haskell

RULEMAKING PETITION to Glenn Normandeau, NH Fish and Game Executive Director

Submitted by:

Linda Dionne
14 Nottingham Rd.,
Raymond, NH 03077-1514
(603) 895-2440

Representing:

Voices of Wildlife in NH
P.O. Box 5802
Manchester, NH 03108
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We petition the NH Fish and Game Department to Amend Fis 303.06 (a) to the following:

Amend Fis 303.06 (a) Coyote may be taken by use of firearm or bow and arrow ~~year round~~ **from October 15 through March 31**, ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Reasons to shorten the coyote hunting season:

1. Mating begins in January and in April there are litters of young which depend on both parents for food and training. They are not weaned until mid-June and guidance continues while the pups are growing. Young coyotes are more susceptible to becoming nuisance animals if they are not given proper guidance from adult coyotes.
2. It is inhumane to kill adults during pup rearing. Pups may die of starvation if the adults are killed.
3. Hunting coyotes year-round is not a good way to manage the species. It does not control the population. Scientists have discovered that coyotes, being responsive breeders, adapt to over-hunting by having larger litters.
4. Four Northeastern states have closed coyote hunting seasons. NY conducted a study in 1991 that discredited a year-round open hunting season of coyotes in upstate NY. See <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72939.html>
5. The coyote is not a food source nor is it a fur source in warmer months. Recreational killing is not an appropriate use of a wild animal. Colonel Jordan stated at the October 2017 NHFG Commission meeting that there are laws in NH against wanton waste. It is wanton waste to kill coyotes during the months of April - October.
6. Hunting seasons for other furbearers are the same, or nearly the same, as the trapping season of that animal. Coyotes stand out as the only furbearer that doesn't have a closed hunting season.

Signature: *Linda Dionne*